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Mormon Rep

Most Mormons back GOP, but fewer support Trump

In this Sept. 14, 2016, file photo, the Salt Lake Temple, is shown, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press. Page 3



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'Roma' named best film by New York film critics

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In what may be the just the first of many such sweeps, Alfonso Cuarón's masterful, memory-drenched drama "Roma" dominated the New York Film Critics Circle Awards on Thursday, winning best film, best director and best cinematography.

The overwhelming show of support for "Roma" by the critics group wasn't a surprise. Cuarón's film has been hailed as a masterpiece since winning the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival. It's widely expected to contend for best picture, among other categories, at the Academy Awards, and Netflix has put its full weight behind an awards campaign. Cuarón



This image released by Netflix shows Yalitza Aparicio, center, in a scene from the film "Roma," by filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón. Associated Press.

made the black-and-white 1970s-set film based on his

own upbringing in Mexico City, serving as his own cinematographer.

The critics voted Ethan Hawke best actor for Paul Schrader's "First Reformed," and named Schrader's script best screenplay. Those wins provided yet another boost to Schrader's anguished tale of a doubt-riddled pastor (Hawke),

which took the same awards at Monday's Gotham Awards.

While the selections of critics groups like the New York Film Critics Circle and the Los Angeles Film Critics Association often deviate from awards-season favorites, their prestige and early timing can bring less heralded films and performers into the Oscar conversation. That may have happened with the group's pick for best actress: Regina Hall, star of Andrew Bujalski's indie comedy "Support the Girls," about the waitress staff of a Texas sports bar. Hall bested the likes of Lady Gaga ("A Star Is Born") and Olivia Colman ("The Favourite").

Supporting acting prizes went to more widely acknowledged contenders: Regina King for her performance as the matriarch of Barry Jenkins' James Baldwin adaptation "If Beale Street Could Talk"; and Richard E. Grant as Melissa McCarthy's debauched conspirator in the literary forgery drama "Can You

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Most Mormons back GOP, but fewer support Trump

From Front

By **HANNAH FINGERHUT**
and **BRADY McCOMBS**, As-
sociated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

About two-thirds of Mormon voters nationwide favored Republicans in the midterm elections, but President Donald Trump's approval rating among members of the faith lagged behind, according to a nationwide survey of midterm voters.

And as Republican Sen. Mitt Romney prepares to join the new Congress in January, most voters in the predominantly Mormon state of Utah — 64 percent — would like to see the senator confront the president, AP VoteCast found. About half of Romney's supporters — including his Mormon supporters — said they would like to see the former Massachusetts governor stand up to Trump, while about as many indicated the senator should support Trump if elected.

The new data reaffirms Trump's struggle to gain widespread acceptance among Mormons despite the faith's deep-rooted conservative leanings.

Voters of other religious faiths such as evangelical Christians and Catholics are more consistent in their ratings of the president and vote choice. Across most other religious affiliations, about the same share voted for Republican candidates as said they approve of the president.

That's not the case with Mormons: 67 percent voted for Republicans, but 56 percent said they approve of the way Trump is handling his job as president. That's according to an analysis of 1,528 Mormon voters based on data from VoteCast, a survey of more than 115,000 voters nationwide conducted for The Associated Press by NORC at the University of Chicago. The data offers an unusual level of detail about the voting decisions of a sometimes misunderstood religion.

Among Mormon voters in Utah, 76 percent preferred

Republican congressional candidates, but only 56 percent said they approved of Trump.

By comparison, 8 in 10 white evangelical Christians nationwide voted for Republican candidates, and nearly as many (79 percent) said they approve of Trump. Among Catholics, nearly half voted for Republican candidates and said they approve of Trump (49 percent each). Nationally, 45 percent of voters said they approve of the way Trump is handling his job as president, while 55 percent disapprove.

Among Republican voters nationwide, 85 percent said they approve of the way Trump is handling his job as president.

Trump has struggled since he was a presidential candidate to gain acceptance among Mormons and in Utah, where the mostly Mormon electorate has long been uncomfortable with his brash style and his comments about women and immigrants. He won the deep-red state in the 2016 election, but many conservative voters cast ballots instead for third-party candidate Evan McMullin as Trump earned the lowest percentage of the vote among GOP presidential candidates since 1992.

Members of the religion, which forbids its members from using alcohol or tobacco and teaches that gay marriage and homosexual relationships are a sin, place a high value on manners, amiability and public diplomacy. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a Utah-based faith that counts 6.6 million members in the United States.

According to VoteCast, a majority of Mormons said Trump does not have the right temperament to serve effectively as president (58 percent), while just about 4 in 10 (42 percent) said he does. Forty-six percent of Mormons said the president is honest and trustworthy. □



In this Sept. 16, 2018, file photo, Sam Young speaks during a press conference in Salt Lake City.
Associated Press



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Trump's ex-lawyer admits lies about Russian real estate deal

By **ERIC TUCKER, LARRY NEUMEISTER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, admitted Thursday he lied to Congress about a Moscow real estate deal he had pursued on Trump's behalf during the heat of the 2016 Republican campaign. He said he did so to be consistent with Trump's "political messaging."

Cohen's guilty plea makes clear that prosecutors believe that Trump, who insisted repeatedly throughout the campaign that he had no business dealings in Russia, was continuing to pursue the project weeks after he had clinched the Republican nomination for president and well after he and his associates have publicly acknowledged.

The negotiations about building a Russian Trump Tower continued as late as June 2016 — the same month Trump's oldest son met in Manhattan with a Kremlin-connected lawyer — even though Cohen told two congressional commit-

tees last year that the talks ended that January.

Cohen also discussed the proposal with Trump on multiple occasions and with unidentified members of the president's family, according to court papers filed by special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating Russian interference in the presidential election and possible coordination with the Trump campaign. Cohen is cooperating with Mueller and has met with his team seven times, prosecutors say.

The Cohen case was filed in New York a week after Trump and his lawyers provided Mueller with responses to written questions and is the first new charge filed by the special counsel since the appointment of Matthew Whitaker, who has spoken pejoratively about the investigation, as acting attorney general with oversight of the probe. Whitaker was advised of the plea ahead of time, according to a person familiar with the investigation. Cohen's surprise court appearance marks the latest

step in his evolution from trusted Trump consigliere — he said Thursday he had lied out of "loyalty" — to prime antagonist. It is the second time the lawyer's legal woes have entangled Trump, coming months after Cohen said the president directed him during his campaign to make hush money payments to two women who said they had sex with Trump.

Trump on Thursday called Cohen a "weak person" who was lying to get a lighter sentence and repeatedly stressed that the real estate deal at issue was never a secret and never executed. His lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, said that Cohen was a "proven liar" and that Trump's business organization had voluntarily given Mueller the same documents cited in the guilty plea "because there was nothing to hide."

"We had a position to possibly do a deal to build a building of some kind in Moscow. I decided not to do it," Trump said.

He said the primary reason he didn't pursue it was

"I was focused on running for president." He added: "There would be nothing wrong if I did do it. I was running my business while I was campaigning."

But during the campaign, Trump was repeatedly dismissive of claims that he had connections to the Kremlin, an issue that flared as especially sensitive in the summer of 2016 after a cybersecurity company asserted that Moscow was behind a cyberattack on the Democratic National Committee.

"I have a great company. I built an unbelievable company, but if you look there you'll see there's nothing in Russia," Trump said at a July 2016 news conference.

"But zero, I mean I will tell you right now, zero, I have nothing to do with Russia," he said at another point.

It was not immediately clear whether questions about the Russian Trump Tower real estate deal were among those answered by Trump and his lawyers last week. But a prior list of queries that Mueller's team presented to Trump lawyers this year did include a question about it, and Mueller's team is known to have asked about Trump's business dealings over the years.

If he did answer questions on the topic, Trump could have problems the responses deviate from prosecutors' factual narrative.

The nine-page charging document for Cohen traces the behind-the-scenes communication about the project that almost became reality in October 2015 when an obscure Russian real estate developer signed a letter of intent sent by Cohen for a 15-floor hotel, condominium and retail complex in Moscow.

Cohen's comments made clear that his communications with Trump about the project were more frequent than he had suggested.

Cohen admitted lying about the timing of the negotiations, his communications with people in Trump's company and in Russia about the deal, and

other details to be loyal to Trump and consistent with Trump's "political messaging." Cohen and prosecutors referred to Trump as "Individual One" throughout Thursday's proceedings and said Cohen lied "to be loyal to Individual One."

Cohen said he also lied about his contacts with Russian officials and lied when he said he never agreed to travel to Russia in connection with the project and never discussed with Trump plans to travel to Moscow to support the project.

Prosecutors said Cohen had misled Congress to give a false impression that the Moscow project had ended before the Iowa presidential caucuses and first Republican presidential primary in 2016.

Nothing said in court, or in associated court filings, addressed whether Trump or his aides had directed Cohen to mislead Congress.

Thursday's charges were handled by Mueller's team, not the federal prosecutors in New York who handled Cohen's previous guilty plea in August to other federal charges involving his taxi businesses, bank fraud and his campaign work for Trump. Cohen is to be sentenced Dec. 12, and guidelines call for little to no prison on the new charge. Reacting to the plea, House Speaker Paul Ryan said Cohen "should be prosecuted to the extent of the law. That's why we put people under oath."

Cohen gave a statement to congressional committees last year saying the president's company pursued a project in Moscow but that the plan was abandoned "for a variety of business reasons."

Cohen also said he sent an email to the spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin concerning the potential deal.

In his statement, he said that he worked on the real estate proposal with Felix Sater, a Russia-born associate who he said claimed to have deep connections in Moscow. □

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ONLINE****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****Next US moon landing will be by private companies, not NASA**By **MARCIA DUNN****Associated Press****CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)**

— America's next moon landing will be made by private companies — not NASA.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine announced Thursday that nine U.S. companies will compete to deliver experiments to the lunar surface. The space agency will buy the service and let private industry work out the details on getting there, he said.

The goal is to get small science and technology experiments to the surface of the moon as soon as possible. The first flight could be next year; 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the first manned moon landing.

"We're going at high



In this Oct. 12, 2018 file photo, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Jim Bridenstine speaks during a news conference at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

speed," said Thomas Zurbuchen, head of NASA's science mission directorate, which will lead the effort.

NASA officials said the re-

search will help get astronauts back to the moon more quickly and keep them safer once they're there. The initial deliveries

likely will include radiation monitors, as well as laser reflectors for gravity and other types of measurements, according to Zurbuchen.

Bridenstine said it will be up to the companies to arrange their own rocket rides. NASA will be one of multiple customers using these lunar services.

The announcement came just three days after NASA landed a spacecraft on Mars. NASA wants to see how it goes at the moon before committing to commercial delivery services at Mars.

This new partnership is loosely modeled after NASA's successful commercial cargo deliveries to the International Space Station, as well as the still-unproven commercial

crew effort. SpaceX and Northrop Grumman, formerly Orbital ATK, have been making space station shipments since 2012. SpaceX expects to start transporting astronauts to the orbiting lab next year; so does Boeing.

Altogether, these Commercial Lunar Payload Services contracts have a combined value of \$2.6 billion over the next 10 years.

NASA wants lots of companies involved to encourage competition and get to the moon fast, so astronauts can benefit once an orbiting outpost is up and running near the moon.

Bridenstine expects to have humans working intermittently on the moon, along with robots and rovers, within a decade. □

Mystery ballot could sway control of Alaska state governmentBy **BECKY BOHRER****Associated Press**

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — It's a sign that every vote does count.

A single mystery ballot found on a precinct table on Election Day but not counted then could decide a tied Alaska state House race and thwart Republican efforts to control the chamber and all of state government.

The ballot arrived in Juneau last Friday in a secrecy sleeve in a bin with other ballot materials. Officials were investigating its origins and handling before deciding whether to tally it.

"People kept calling it close," Democrat candidate Kathryn Dodge said of the race for the House seat in Fairbanks. "I just didn't know it was going to be squeaky."

A recount is scheduled for Friday after the race between Dodge and Republican Bart LeBon was previously certified as a tie, at 2,661 votes apiece. The uncounted ballot appears to be marked for Dodge.

The outcome will have big political implications. If LeBon wins, Republicans will control the state House in addition to the state Senate and the governor's office.

If Dodge wins, the House would be split 20-20, between Republicans and the remnant of a coalition that is largely comprised of Democrats but includes two Republicans.

For the candidates, it's been a three-week rollercoaster ride marked by lead changes before the tie was declared and by the appearance of the

mystery ballot.

Elections director Josie

Bahnke said she wants to ensure that every vote

cast by an eligible voter is counted. □



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Lawmakers call for detention camp reforms

By **MARTHA MENDOZA**
GARANACE BURKE
Associated Press

Lawmakers Thursday called for stricter background checks, more mental health support and a public hearing to further investigate problems at a massive detention camp for migrant teens raised by a federal watchdog report and an Associated Press investigation earlier this week.

More than 2,300 teens are being held at the remote tent city in Tornillo, Texas, which opened in June as a temporary, emergency shelter but now appears to be becoming more permanent, with ongoing construction at costs that can reach \$1,200 per child per day, the AP reported Tuesday.

The Department of Health and Human Service's Of-



In this Nov. 15, 2018 photo provided by Ivan Pierre Aguirre, migrant teens are led in a line inside the Tornillo detention camp holding more than 2,300 migrant teens in Tornillo, Texas.

Associated Press

fice of Inspector General on Tuesday raised concerns that the private contractor running Tornillo has

not put its 2,100 staffers through FBI background checks, and that they're allowed to have just one

mental health clinician for every 100 children.

"These issues must be addressed and remedied

without delay," said Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-New York, in a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar. It was co-signed by other Democratic House members. They asked for a briefing before Dec. 11 and a hearing in the new Congress early next year.

"The problems we are seeing in Tornillo are as shameful as they were in June and symptoms of a much larger problem that we've spent years ignoring - a broken immigration system," said Rep. Will Hurd, D-Texas, whose district includes the detention camp. "Similar to building a wall from sea to shining sea, detaining kids in Tornillo is the most expensive and least effective policy approach that fails to address root causes of migration flows or make anyone safer." □



In this Aug. 28, 2009, file photo, Patty and Jerry Wetterling show a photo of their son Jacob Wetterling, who was abducted in October 1989 in St. Joseph, Minn and was still missing, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Minnesota man awarded \$17M in decades-old molestation case

Associated Press

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (AP) — A Minnesota man who was molested decades ago by the man who went on to abduct, sexually assault and kill Jacob Wetterling was awarded more than \$17 million in damages on Thursday. Jared Scheierl was 12 when he was molested by Danny Heinrich in 1989 in Cold Spring. The attack happened months before Jacob, 11, was abducted from a rural road near his home in St. Joseph.

In 2016, Heinrich admitted to sexually assaulting Scheierl and to abducting, molesting and killing Jacob as part of a plea deal in a federal child pornography case. As part of the deal, Heinrich led authorities to Jacob's remains, ending a nearly three-decade search for the boy, but he did not face charges in Jacob's death.

It was also too late to prosecute Heinrich for Scheierl's attack, but Scheierl sued him. The Star Tribune re-

ported that Stearns County Judge Andrew Pearson awarded Scheierl damages on Thursday.

"How does this court put a value on the diminished quality of life that Mr. Scheierl lived as a result of Mr. Heinrich's act?" Pearson wrote. "It's been said that a human life is worth more than all the treasures of the world." Heinrich is serving a 20-year federal prison sentence and it's unlikely he'll be able to pay the damages. □

Arguments in "Serial" case focus on lawyer, alibi witness

By DAVID McFADDEN

BRIAN WITTE

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Roughly two years after a new trial was ordered, Maryland's highest court on Thursday heard arguments in their review of the high-profile case of a man whose murder conviction was chronicled in the hit "Serial" podcast that attracted millions of armchair detectives.

Tasked with upholding the retrial order for Adnan Syed or reviewing a decision that could reinstate a conviction, Maryland's Court of Appeals heard about an hour's worth of arguments in the long-running case. Syed was convicted in 2000 of strangling his high school sweetheart and burying her body in a Baltimore park. He's been serving a life sentence ever since.

But a Baltimore judge vacated his conviction two years ago and a court ordered a new trial after concluding that his trial lawyer was ineffective. The state appealed. Earlier this year, the special appeals court upheld the lower court's ruling. The state appealed that decision, too.

On Thursday, state prosecutor Thiru Vignarajah acknowledged that the late trial lawyer for Syed did not contact an alibi witness but he asserts that the attorney understood the "gist" of what that witness, Asia McClain, might have told her at the time. The attorney in question, Cristina Gutierrez, died of a heart attack in 2004, about four years after Syed was convicted of murdering 18-year-old Hae Min Lee.

"The record is not silent on whether or not Ms. McClain was contacted. The state agrees with that. The record is silent on the critical question of why," he said, suggesting that it is not clear why Gutierrez decided to take one investigative path over another and asserting that it's wrong to conclude that Syed's constitutional right to effective counsel was violated.

In 2016, a lower court ordered a retrial for Syed on grounds that Gutierrez didn't contact McClain and provided ineffective counsel.

The defense team countered that it's entirely irrelevant why Gutierrez failed to contact McClain, who said she saw Syed at a library about the same time prosecutors say his ex-girlfriend was killed in 1999.

Defense attorney Catherine Stetson told Maryland's highest court that Syed's original lawyer's failure to contact the witness were "objectively unreasonable" and any possible reasons don't matter. She said Gutierrez "had an obligation to pursue that witness," among others.

By late Thursday morning, the appeals panel of seven judges wrapped up the day's oral arguments. It's not clear when their review of the Syed case will be completed.

The arguments in the Maryland appeals court brought spectators from out of state. Chris Hendrixson drove from Cincinnati, Ohio, to observe the hearing and perhaps meet some of the people he's heard about on the podcast.

"Like so many people, we just became captivated by this case and this story through 'Serial,'" Hendrixson said outside the Annapolis courthouse.

University of Baltimore law professor David Jaros told The Associated Press that the fact that a lower court had found that there was "ineffective assistance of counsel" was itself remarkable since it happens so rarely. That alone makes Syed's case something of an outlier, he said. "Ineffective assistance of counsel claims are exceedingly hard to bring. And the bar for what is an effective assistance of counsel is remarkably and shockingly low, with courts actually holding that defendants had effective representation even though their lawyer fell asleep at the trial," Jaros said in a phone interview. □



In this Feb. 3, 2016 file photo, Adnan Syed enters Courthouse East prior to a hearing in Baltimore.
Associated Press

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Police raid Deutsche Bank offices in money laundering case

By **DAVID RISING**
FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German authorities raided Deutsche Bank's headquarters Thursday amid suspicions that its employees helped clients set up offshore companies that were used to launder hundreds of millions of euros.

About 170 police officers, investigators and prosecutors swooped in on the bank's offices in Frankfurt and premises in nearby Eschborn and Gross-Umstadt at 10 a.m. (0900 GMT), seizing electronic and paper records.

The investigation emerged from an analysis of documents leaked from tax havens in recent years, including the 2016 "Panama Papers," said Frankfurt prosecutors' spokeswoman Nadja Niesen.

It is focused on two Deutsche Bank employees, aged 50 and 46, and possibly other still unidentified suspects, she said. At least one site raided was a suspect's home.

Analysis of the Panama Pa-



Police officers walk in the backyard of Deutsche Bank headquarters during a raid in Frankfurt, Germany, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

pers and other documents "gave rise to suspicion that Deutsche Bank was helping clients set up so-called offshore companies in tax havens and the proceeds of crimes were transferred there from Deutsche Bank accounts" without the bank

reporting it, Niesen said.

In 2016 alone, more than 900 customers are alleged to have transferred some 311 million euros (\$351 million) to one such company set up in the British Virgin Islands, she said.

The suspects, both Ger-

man citizens, are accused of failing to report the suspicious transactions even though there was "sufficient evidence" to have been aware of it.

Deutsche Bank confirmed the search and said "the investigation has to do with

the Panama Papers case." "More details will be communicated as soon as these become known. We are cooperating fully with the authorities," the bank said.

Money laundering has become a growing problem in Europe, where a series of scandals has exposed lax regulation.

And it's not the first time Deutsche Bank has run into trouble over the flow of dirty money.

It was fined more than \$600 million by U.S. and U.K. authorities in January 2017 for allowing customers to transfer \$10 billion out of Russia in what regulators said was "highly suggestive of financial crime."

The Panama Papers are a trove of documents from a law firm that handled shell companies for thousands of rich and powerful clients around the world. While owning a shell company is not illegal, it is used to hide the beneficial owner of a company or transfer, making it important for the handling and laundering of dirty money. □

Associated Press



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Italy pressures Egypt anew for answers in student's killing



In this Feb. 12, 2016 file photo, the family of Giulio Regeni follow his coffin during the funeral service in Fiumicello, Northern Italy.

Associated Press

By **COLLEEN BARRY**
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Italy raised the pressure Thursday on Egypt for concrete answers to the brutal torture and murder of an Italian researcher nearly

two years ago. Prosecutors indicated plans to investigate Egyptian secret service members and the speaker of Italy's lower house broke parliamentary ties with Egypt. Prosecutors are set to open

an investigation against seven Egyptian secret service members related to the murder in January 2016 of Giulio Regeni, who was abducted and tortured for several days before his body was left on a desert highway north of Cairo, the news agency ANSA reported, without citing sources. The launch of a formal investigation, which is likely to raise tensions with Egypt, could come as soon as next week.

While Egypt is unlikely to surrender any suspects, Italy could try any defendants in absentia.

Also Thursday, Italy's lower house speaker Roberto Fico announced the suspension of relations with the Egyptian parliament "until there is a true investigation and a trial that brings resolution." □

Greek high school unrest amid fears of far-right resurgence

By **COSTAS KANTOURIS**
NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

Associated Press

THESSALONIKI, Greece

(AP) — Led by a horseman draped in a Greek flag, about 1,200 high school students marched through the northern city of Thessaloniki on Thursday to protest government efforts to end a three-decade-old dispute with neighboring Macedonia.

Protesters waved Greek flags, shouted slogans and displayed banners against Macedonia — and against another two neighboring countries, Albania and Turkey — amid rising concern over school infiltration by nationalists and the extreme far-right.

The march ended peacefully, but about a hundred



A teenager holds, a flag with the Star of Vergina, the emblem of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia, during a protest in front of the White Tower, a landmark of the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

Associated Press

demonstrators shortly afterward threw stones at police, who fired tear gas to disperse them. Four protesters, all minors, were arrest-

ed for public disturbance offences.

Protests, mostly against state education policy by usually left-leaning school-

children, are common in Greece where all political parties encourage teenagers to be politicized.

But Thursday's demonstration, preceded by days of unrest in northern high schools over relations with Macedonia, has stoked worries that the extreme far-right, which shot up in support during Greece's financial crisis, is gaining influence among teenagers. This week, Education Minister Costas Gavroglou accused the Nazi-inspired Golden Dawn party — the fourth-strongest force in parliament — of "trying to inject (its) nationalist poison into schoolchildren."

The party strongly backs the school protests, while many protesters use Golden Dawn slogans. Nobody

is openly involved in organizing the unrest, which spreads through social media platforms.

Officials say teenagers closed down 210 of a total 604 high schools in Thessaloniki and neighboring areas, some for several days, in opposition to a proposed deal to normalize Greece's relations with Macedonia.

The agreement would see Macedonia rename itself "North Macedonia" and in return Greece will stop blocking its bids to join NATO and the European Union. Athens says the current name implies claims on Greek territory — Thessaloniki is the capital of the Greek region of Macedonia — and heritage. □

UN says millions misspent on Africa's biggest refugee crisis

By **RODNEY MUHUMUZA**

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) —

The United Nations refugee agency has misspent millions of dollars on Africa's largest refugee crisis, including paying \$320,000 for what became a parking lot at the Ugandan prime minister's office, an internal inquiry says.

The new report by the U.N.'s internal watchdog says about \$11 million alone is now being spent on a recount of the South Sudanese who poured into Uganda, to weed out potentially hundreds of thousands of "ghost

refugees." Over-counting refugees to bring in more funding carries the risk of officials quietly pocketing the difference.

More than a million South Sudanese fled to neighboring Uganda after fresh fighting broke out in July 2016, causing a scramble by the U.N. and other humanitarian actors to help them find food and shelter.

Uganda has been praised internationally for welcoming refugees but has faced scrutiny over corruption in the process. Uganda's prime minister did not immediately respond

to requests for comment.

The new report echoes findings of an earlier investigation by the U.N. refugee agency that indicated serious oversight

and other failings, agency spokesman Babar Baloch told The Associated Press. Action to address those issues is already underway, he said. □



In this Friday, June 9, 2017 file photo, a section of the sprawling complex of mud-brick houses and tents that makes up the Bidi Bidi South Sudanese refugee settlement in northern Uganda.

Associated Press

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3 Filipino policemen convicted of murder in brutal drug war

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— A Philippine court found three police officers guilty on Thursday of killing a student they alleged was a drug dealer, in the first known such conviction under the president's deadly crackdown on drugs.

Regional Trial Court Presiding Judge Rodolfo Azucena Jr. ruled the officers murdered Kian Loyd delos Santos during a raid in Caloocan city's slums in the Manila metropolis last year. It rejected the policemen's claim that the 17-year-old fired back while resisting arrest.

The court sentenced the officers, Arnel Oares, Jeremias Pereda and Jerwin Cruz, to be imprisoned for up to 40 years without parole, although they can appeal. Aside from the prison term, the policemen, who appeared in court in handcuffs and yellow detainee shirts, were ordered to pay damages to Santos's impoverished family.

President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown, which has left thousands of suspects dead, reportedly in clashes with the police, has alarmed Western governments and U.N. rights experts and horrified human rights watchdogs. The volatile president has stressed he does not condone extrajudicial killings, although he has repeatedly threatened drug suspects with



Activists light candles in front of the picture of 17-year-old student Kian Loyd delos Santos in Caloocan, metropolitan Manila, Philippines on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

Associated Press

death and has assured police he would back them up in ways that human rights watchdogs say have encouraged law enforcers to act with impunity.

"A shoot first, think later attitude can never be countenanced in a civilized society. Never has homicide or murder been a function of law enforcement," Azucena said in his ruling. "The public peace is never predicated on the cost of human life."

Duterte's government called the ruling "a triumph of justice" which disproved critics' assertion that the judiciary was a rubberstamp. "As we have always stressed, the conduct of the

government's anti-illegal drug campaign is based on accountability. Therefore, we do not — and we will never — tolerate unjustified police violence, brutality or killing," presidential spokesman and chief legal counsel Salvador Panelo told a news conference.

Opposition Sen. Risa Hontiveros, who has railed against the drug killings, said the court decision proved that extrajudicial killings under Duterte's crackdown were being committed by rogue members of the national police force.

"This is a light in the darkness," Hontiveros said in a statement. "Despite the

gruesome climate of killing and impunity in the country, this verdict sends the message that there is hope and justice. And we will fight for more light and truth until the darkness cannot overcome them."

Hontiveros said the numbers of drug killings, which started to rise when Duterte took office in mid-2016 and launched his war against drugs, could not have reached "catastrophic levels if these killings did not have a sinister principle and policy behind them." Duterte and police officials have repeatedly stated there was no state policy to kill drug suspects illegally. Duterte faces at least two

mass murder complaints before the International Criminal Court, which he said would never acquire jurisdiction over him.

Delos Santos's killing on Aug. 16, 2017, sparked an outcry and a televised Senate inquiry, and prompted Duterte to temporarily order a small anti-drug agency with only about a thousand men to oversee the campaign against illegal drugs. The crackdown had been previously led by the national police, which Duterte once described as "corrupt to the core."

The policemen claimed delos Santos was a drug dealer who fired at officers during the raid, but his family and witnesses testified in official investigations that he was shot in a dark alley near a creek as he pleaded for his life.

Witnesses pointed to evidence, including a village security video, which they said showed two of the police officers dragging away the teenager shortly before shots rang out and he was found fatally shot in the head, holding a pistol with his left hand although his parent said he was right-handed.

The police officers testified in the Senate that delos Santos was not the man seen being dragged in the video, although several witnesses doubted the police statements. □



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Ukraine urges NATO to deploy ships in dispute with Russia

By YURAS KARMANAU
VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — The president of Ukraine is urging NATO to deploy warships to the Sea of Azov, a proposal that has been sharply criticized by Russia as a provocation that could worsen tensions between the two countries following a weekend confrontation in the waters off the Crimean Peninsula. U.S. President Donald Trump said Thursday he was canceling a planned meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G-20 summit in Argentina because Moscow has not released the Ukrainian vessels and sailors it seized.

In an interview published earlier Thursday with the German daily Bild, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko laid out his hope that NATO would "relocate naval ships to the Sea of Azov in order to assist Ukraine and provide security" against Putin's expansionist ambitions.

The Russian coast guard fired on and seized three Ukrainian vessels and their crews on Sunday. Russia alleged the Ukrainian vessels had failed to obtain permission to pass from the Black Sea into the Sea of Azov through the Kerch Strait. Ukraine insisted its vessels were operating in line with international maritime rules in the strait, which separates Russia's mainland and the Crimean Peninsula that it annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

While condemning the Russian action, NATO is not expected to send ships to the area, a deployment that could trigger a confrontation with Russia. A 2003 treaty between Russia and



Ukrainian tanks are being transported in Urzuf, south coast of Azov sea, eastern Ukraine, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

Associated Press

Ukraine stipulates that permission from both countries is required for warships from anywhere else to enter the internal sea.

NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu said the alliance already has a strong presence in the region, and that NATO ships routinely patrol and conduct exercises in the Black Sea, especially those from Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey, which border the sea.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said early Thursday that she plans to press Putin at the upcoming G-20 summit in Argentina to urge the release of the Ukrainian ships and crews and to de-escalate the situation.

"We can only resolve this in talks with one another because there is no military solution to all of these conflicts," she said.

It was not clear whether Merkel knew of Poroshenko's call for NATO's deployment when she spoke.

Trump tweeted his decision to cancel a meeting with

Putin this weekend. Trump, who was en route to Buenos Aires for the G-20 summit, said he would not be meeting Putin because "the ships and sailors have not been returned to Ukraine from Russia."

The Kremlin said it has not been notified of a cancellation. Russian news agencies quoted Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesman, as saying that the Kremlin only learned of the cancellation from Trump's tweet.

Peskov said the cancellation means that Putin will have "a couple of more hours" for "useful meetings" with other leaders of the world's 20 largest economies.

The Ukrainian government said Russia has blocked commercial traffic to and from Ukrainian ports on the Sea of Azov, which Russia quickly denied.

"Putin wants nothing less but to occupy the sea," Poroshenko said. "The only language he understands is the unity of the Western

world."

Putin on Wednesday criticized the West for what he described as connivance with Ukraine's "provocation."

"The authorities in Kiev are successfully selling anti-Russian sentiments as they have nothing else left to sell," he said. "They can get away with whatever they do. If they want to eat babies for breakfast today, they will likely get served too."

In response to Sunday's events, Ukraine has imposed martial law in parts of the country. Putin accused Poroshenko of provoking the naval incident in a bid to impose martial law to shore up his sagging popularity and sideline competitors ahead of a presidential election in March.

Peskov said Poroshenko's request for NATO warships is "clearly aimed at provoking further tensions," adding that it was driven by "electoral and domestic policy motives."

Poroshenko said that martial law wouldn't restrict travel, cash withdrawals or currency purchases by Ukrainians, but Russians will face some unspecified constraints.

Ukraine's Ministry of Infrastructure says Russia has blocked 35 merchant ships from leaving or entering the Sea of Azov since Wednesday.

The ministry said 18 ships have been stuck in the Black Sea, waiting to pass through the Kerch Strait into the Sea of Azov. Another 17 vessels were unable to leave the Ukrainian ports of Mariupol and Berdyansk on the Sea of Azov, it said.

Peskov insisted that Russia hasn't imposed any restrictions on the ships' passage, adding that a possible logjam could be linked to poor weather.

Ukraine's intelligence agency, the SBU, said a Russian fighter jet and a helicopter fired rockets Sunday at the three Ukrainian vessels before they were captured — the first time an airstrike was reported.

"It's a miracle the Ukrainian seamen have survived," SBU deputy chief Oleh Frolov told reporters.

There has been growing hostility between Ukraine and Russia since Moscow's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. Russia has also supported separatists in Ukraine's east with clandestine dispatches of troops and weapons. Fighting there has killed at least 10,000 people since 2014 but eased somewhat after a 2015 truce. The naval incident marked the first overt clash between Russian and Ukrainian militaries since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. □



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ARUBA WINE & DINE

World leaders arriving to pivotal G-20 summit in Argentina

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO**
ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — World leaders began arriving in Buenos Aires on Thursday for the summit of the globe's largest economies, with attention expected to focus on issues including a trade war between the United States and China, a new North American trade deal and the conflict in Ukraine. Heads of state from Italy, Canada, South Korea, Singapore and Turkey were among the first in the country, joining the French president and Saudi crown prince who arrived the previous day.

The meeting could be a defining moment for the Group of 20, for better or for worse, said Thomas Bernes of the Centre for International Governance Innovation, a Canada-based think tank focusing on global governance.

"The G-20 Leader's Summit



South Korea's President Moon Jae-in, left, is wife Kim Jung-sook, center, and are welcomed by Argentina Social Development Minister Carolina Stanley on their arrival to the Ministro Pistarini international airport to participate in the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

Associated Press

is at risk of falling into disarray with the summit being overshadowed by items not on agenda, such as the United States and China trade war, Russia's aggres-

sion against Ukraine and the presence of the Saudi crown prince," Bernes said. "The true test will be whether the other members of the G-20 will act resolutely

or whether will we witness the crumbling of the G-20 as a forum for international economic cooperation." The crown prince, Mohamed bin Salman, has been

accused by Human Rights Watch of war crimes in Yemen and responsibility for the gruesome slaying of newspaper columnist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul last month. On Wednesday, Argentine legal authorities took initial action to consider a request from Human Rights Watch to prosecute him for alleged crimes against humanity, a move apparently aimed at embarrassing him as he attends the summit.

In Moscow, the Kremlin said that Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump would discuss an array of issues, including nuclear arms control at their meeting Saturday on the sidelines of the summit.

Government spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the two leaders will start with one-on-one talks and then continue broader negotiations involving officials from both sides. □

Brazil withdraws offer to host UN climate change conference

By **DIANE JEANTET**
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil has withdrawn its offer to host a large U.N. conference on climate change next year, the foreign ministry said Wednesday, leading environmental groups to question the government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions.

Brazil pulled its offer to host the 2019 climate change conference because of

"the current fiscal and budget constraints, which are expected to remain in the near future," the foreign ministry said in a statement sent to The Associated Press.

Environmental groups interpreted the decision as a nod to President-elect Jair Bolsonaro, who promised during his campaign to pull Brazil out of the Paris accord on climate change. Since being elected, Bolsonaro has publicly wa-

vered on those promises. However, climate scientists have said Bolsonaro's stated intention to open the Amazon for greater development could make it impossible for Latin America's largest nation to meet its reduced emissions targets in the coming years.

Bolsonaro told reporters late Wednesday that he had recommended to the incoming foreign minister that Brazil not host the event.

"Environmental politics can't muddle with Brazil's development," Bolsonaro said. "Today, the economy is almost back on track thanks to agribusiness, and they are suffocated by environmental questions." The World Wildlife Fund in Brazil noted that the decision not to host next year's conference diverged from the position shared by Brazilian officials before the elections, "demonstrating the strong influence of the

transition team."

"Brazil's participation is vital to meeting global targets, as our country is currently the 7th largest emitter of greenhouse gases and the Amazon has a key role in regulating global climate," the group said in a statement.

The Brazilian candidacy to host next year's meeting was to be reviewed during this year's conference, which begins this weekend in Katowice, Poland. □

LOCAL



New Executive Board Elected by the Consular Corps of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — The members of the Consular Corps of Aruba elected a new Executive Board at their recent annual general meeting. Carlos Augusto, Consul of Brazil, was appointed as the new President; Cecilia Arendsz Consul of Costa Rica was appointed as Vice-President. The other board members appointed were Ami Mendez Consul of Philippines as Treasurer, Magali Guzman de Meza Consul of Ecuador as Secretary and Christian Mongellaz Consul of France as support member of the board. The election was held during the annual general meeting on November 27, 2018 at the Foreign Affairs Office. ACCA, the Association of the Consular Corps of Aruba established in 2000 represents over 15 countries from around the world. Its members serve as consul-general, consul, vice-consul and honorary consul. They are official representatives of the government of their states. They offer assistance to citizens from the countries they represent in Aruba in consular matters. They also work to promote good relations between Aruba and the country they represent.

About the Association Consular Corps Aruba: The Association Consular Corps Aruba is a non-profit entity organized by and for consuls and other foreign diplomats in Aruba.



Photo from left to right: Ami Mendez (Treasurer), Carlos Augusto (President), Cecilia Arendsz (Vice-President) and Magali Guzman de Meza (Secretary).

For more information visit our Facebook page: @A.Consular.Corps.Aruba. □

Like Us on Facebook!

ORANJESTAD – Did you know? Aruba Today has a Facebook page and website. We would love to welcome you to our online community!

The cover picture of the Facebook page will show another picture of a local photographer every couple of months. We love culture and like to support our local talents, therefore Aruba Today chooses to be a platform for showcasing art. Photographer Armando Goedge-

drag took the new cover picture of Aruba Today's Facebook page, following the former local talents that shot the cover picture: Michael-Anthony Fowler and Anuar Habibe. Armando's goal is to create awareness about Aruban nature, especially with the youth and therefore he visits schools and he is member of Korteweg, an organization of young artists aiming to bring art under the attention of the public. A short recap: he is an artist, film maker, body boarder

and surfer, nature lover and nature protector.

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Double Degree Program Graduation 2018

ORANJESTAD — The University of Aruba and Maastricht University are proud to announce that this year nine students from the Double Degree Master Program in International and European Tax Law are graduating!

These students have performed a unique achievement and therefore on 7 December they receive both their degree from Maastricht University and from the University of Aruba.

At the same time they have now acquired the Master of Laws in International and European Tax Law from Maastricht University and Master of Laws in Aruban Law from the University of Aruba.

During the graduation ceremony, the first copy of the book 'Corporate taxation in the Dutch Caribbean and Latin American region: BES islands, Aruba, Curaçao, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela' will be handed over to the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mrs. mr. Evelyn Wever-Croes.

This book is specially written for the Double Degree Program on Aruba.

This finally fills a long-standing gap.

This unique book is also one of the pillars, in addition to European and International Tax Law, on which the program is based. Entirely in the modern time spirit, the book is accessible to everyone online via this link: [\[insert link\]](#)

Given the extent and needs of the Latin American labor market, we expect to educate many students in the coming years to become highly qualified tax specialists.



Prof. Dr. Anouk Bollen-Vandenboorn
DDMP Director

Pauline Veenendaal
DDMP Coordinator UA

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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island.

PALM BEACH — Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors at their home away from home.

The honorees were:

Michael Niederhauser & Mindy Wallace, honored as 10 years consecutive.

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

Ms. Jonathan Boekhoudt thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years together with the members of Marriot Ocean Club. □





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Honoring at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Kimberly Richardson of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and Friendly visitor of Aruba as Distinguished Visitor. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The honorees are Vito & Donna Carulli, residents of New Jersey. The couple stated that they love Aruba very much. They are very thankful for the wonderful people at Divi Phoenix specially Danny.

Richardson together with representatives of the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as her home away from home for so many years. □



Giant Hanukkah Menorahs all around the Island Chabad plans to light up Aruba for the 5th year in a row

ORANJESTAD — As Hanukkah begins on Sunday December 2nd, with it begins a whirlwind week of Menorah lightings around the Island. Join Chabad as they light the Menorah (8 branched Hanukkah candelabra) at a different location each night of Chanukah.

The Ritz-Carlton Aruba will host the first candle lighting ceremony on December 2nd at 6pm on the beach front.

All are invited to join the ceremony, organized by Chabad-Lubavitch Rabbi Ahron Blasberg. Following the menorah lighting, guests will dance, sing and enjoy some delicious latkes and donuts the traditional Hanukkah treats. The public Menorah lightings are part of the worldwide Hanukkah campaign, an initiative launched by the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, in 1973. The campaign highlights and encourages the central theme of the holiday — publicizing the story of the Hanukkah miracle.

"The message of Hanukkah is the message of light," explains Rabbi Blasberg. "The nature of light is that it is always victorious over darkness. A small amount of light dispels a lot of darkness. Another act of goodness and kindness, another act of light, can make all the difference."

Today, the unprecedented public display of Hanukkah has become a staple of Jewish cultural and religious life, forever altering the worldwide practice and awareness of the festival. Aruba's menorah is one of more than 15,000 large public menorahs sponsored by Chabad in more than 100 countries around the world, including in front of landmarks such as the White House, the Eiffel Tower, and the Kremlin helping children and adults of all walks of life discover and enjoy the holiday message.

For more information about Hanukkah and a local schedule of events visit JewishAruba.com/Chanukah



ABOUT HANUKKAH

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, begins this year on the evening of Sunday, December 2 and concludes the evening of Monday, December 10. It recalls the victory of a militarily weak Jewish people who defeated the Syrian Greeks who had overrun ancient Israel and sought to impose restrictions on the Jewish way of life and prohibit religious freedom. They also desecrated and defiled the Temple and the oils prepared for the lighting of the menorah, which was part of the daily service. Upon recapturing the Temple only one jar of undefiled oil was found, enough to burn only one day, but it lasted miraculously for eight. In commemoration, Jews celebrate Hanukkah for eight days by lighting an eight-branched candelabrum known as a menorah. Today, people of all faiths consider the holiday a symbol and message of the triumph of freedom over oppression, of spirit over matter, of light over darkness. Additional information about the Hanukkah holiday is available at www.JewishAruba.com/Hanukkah. □

Honoring at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa.

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Darline de Cuba of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and Friendly visitor of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The honorees are Mrs. Joanne Sukaly, Mrs. Cindy Catek and Mr. Dwight & Mrs. Gail Wilson. The honorees stated that the main reason for returning to our beautiful island is because of the lovely weather, the

variety of restaurants, the safety and the lovely employees at the Resort.

Darline together with the GM and representatives of Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa presented the certifi-

cate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba

as their vacation destination and as her home away from home for so many years. □



SPORTS



Toronto Maple Leafs center Auston Matthews (34) carries the puck up ice against the San Jose Sharks during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018, in Toronto.

Associated Press

Auston Matthews scores twice in return, Maple Leafs win

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Auston Matthews says the last month was torture watching his Toronto Maple Leafs. The star center jumped right back in the action at full speed Wednesday night.

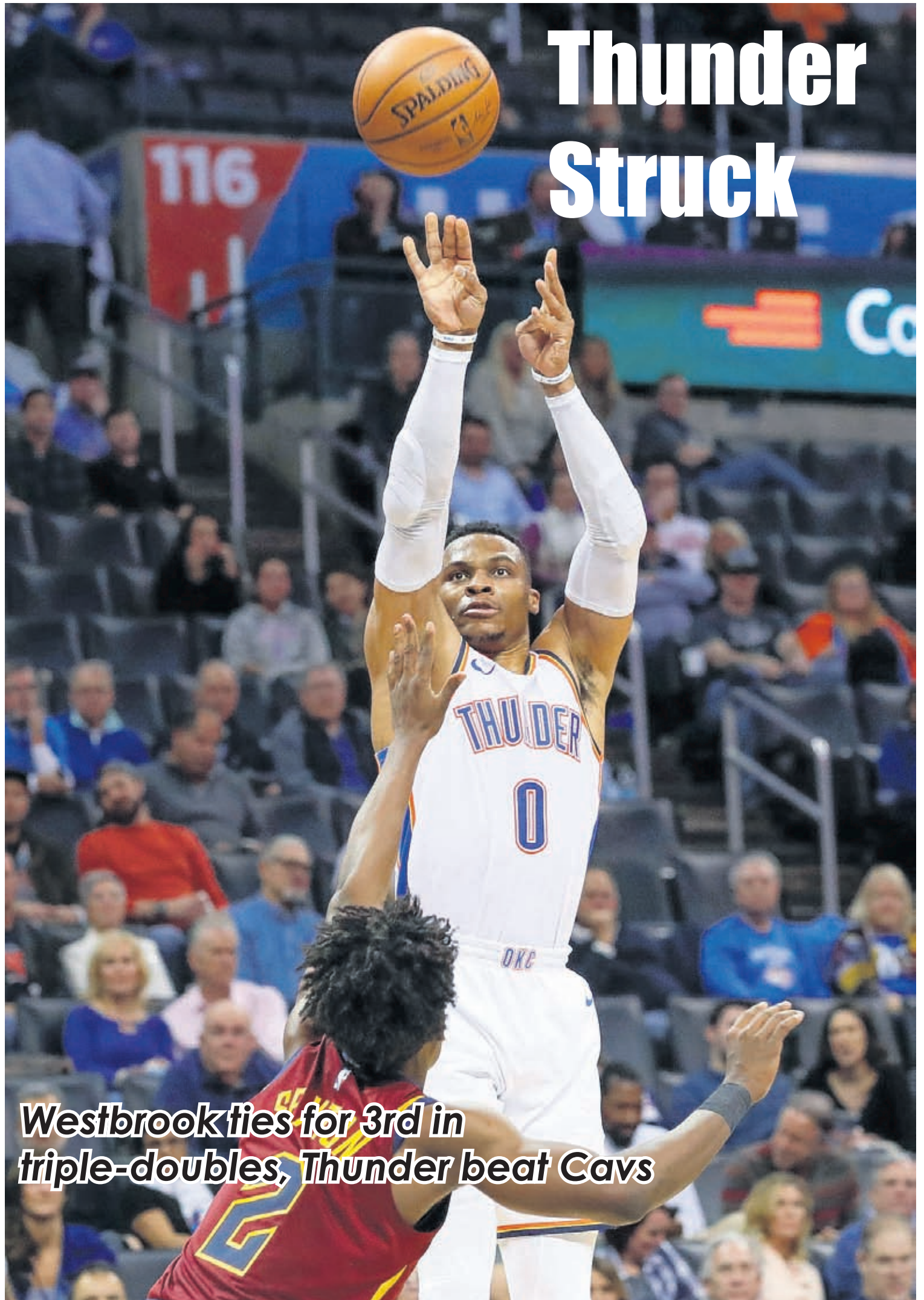
Matthews had two goals and an assist in his return to the lineup after missing 14 games with a left shoulder injury and Toronto beat the San Jose Sharks 5-3 for their third straight victory.

"It kind of just eats away at you," Matthews said about his time on the shelf. "Watching what we've been able to do the last month, we've played pretty exceptional at times."

The 21-year-old American was exceptional himself early with a goal and an assist on two power plays before adding the exclamation point on a third-period deflection to help Toronto pull even with surprising Buffalo atop the NHL's overall standings.

In between, however, Matthews didn't think he was all that impressive in his first

Continued on Page 19



Thunder Struck

Westbrook ties for 3rd in triple-doubles, Thunder beat Cavs

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers guard Collin Sexton (2) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018. Oklahoma City won 100-83.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 18

Oklahoma City Thunder vs. Cleveland Cavaliers

By **MURRAY EVANS**

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —

Russell Westbrook was more introspective than usual Wednesday night.

The 2017 MVP moved into a tie for third place on the NBA list for triple-doubles with 23 points, 19 rebounds and 15 assists, and the Oklahoma City Thunder completed a regular-season sweep of the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers with a 100-83 victory.

Westbrook's triple-double was his third this season — all in the last four games — and the 107th of his career, matching Jason Kidd and trailing only Oscar Robertson (181) and Magic Johnson (138). Kidd took 1,247 games to reach 107, while Westbrook needed only 760.

The 19 rebounds were one off Westbrook's career high, set in last season's finale against Memphis. And when the star guard addressed the media long after the game ended, he spoke more from the heart than he often does.

"I am extremely blessed and humbled to be able to go out and play and compete in the NBA," Westbrook said. "Just to be named with Jason Kidd and Magic and Oscar and those guys, I could have never dreamt about being



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Paul George (13) drives to the basket between Cleveland Cavaliers forward Larry Nance Jr. (22) and guard Collin Sexton (2) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018. Oklahoma City won 100-83.

able to even sit here talking to you guys. I take everything in and never take anything for granted."

Jerami Grant added 21 points, one shy of his career best, on 8-of-12 shooting for the Thunder, who have won 13 of 16 after an 0-4 start.

Jordan Clarkson led Cleveland with 25 points, while Collin Sexton (21 points, 10 rebounds) and Cedi Osman (14 points, 10 rebounds) each had a double-double. The Cavaliers

agreed to trade Kyle Korver to Utah after the team had arrived at Chesapeake Energy Arena, leaving them with only nine players in uniform. Eight got into the game.

Oklahoma City trailed 55-51 in the third quarter when Westbrook started a 13-0 run with a 3-pointer. He capped it by assisting on a dunk by Grant with 5:36 left in the period that completed the triple-double and put the Thunder up 64-55. By the end of the quarter,

the Thunder led 73-62 and the Cavaliers got no closer than nine the rest of the way.

"I just thought they physically wore us down," Cleveland coach Larry Drew said. "They wore us down and our execution wasn't as good in the second half as it was in the first. We kind of looked like we were tired in that second half. They took away our ability to move and to try to make plays."

Cleveland took advantage

of early offensive sloppiness by the Thunder to twice go up by 11 points, the latter time at 38-27 after a 3-pointer by Osman with 7:01 left in the second quarter. Oklahoma City used a 20-6 run to get back in the game, which was tied 47-all at halftime.

APPRECIATING WESTBROOK Drew's job is to scheme ways to stop opposing stars like Westbrook, but that proved nearly impossible on a night when the Thunder guard was on top of his game.

"He's an elite point guard and he does it every night, so I take my hat off to guys that do it every night," Drew said. "He does it at a high level every night. He's a complete player. He's as complete as they can be and he's relentless with his attack. He's a phenomenal guard."

Thunder coach Billy Donovan liked how Westbrook read the game and made the correct play, time after time after time.

"Everything that he did tonight flowed out of our offense," Donovan said. "When the floor was spaced correctly, it gave him opportunities on double-teams to make some reads. ... He did an incredible job organizing and running the offense." □

Associated Press

Stevenson looks for knockout vs Gvozdyk in WBC title fight



WBC light heavyweight boxing champion Adonis Stevenson speaks at a news conference, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, in Quebec City.

Associated Press

Associated Press

QUEBEC CITY (AP) — Canadian Adonis Stevenson says he needs "just one punch" to defeat Oleksandr Gvozdyk, while the Ukrainian believes the long game will lead to victory. They'll fight for the WBC light heavyweight championship on Saturday at the Videotron Centre.

Defending champion Stevenson (29-1-1, 24 KO) knows undefeated Gvozdyk (15-0-0, 12 KO) will be a tough opponent.

"He's hungry, he will want to go far in the boxing match," Stevenson said Thursday at a news confer-

ence. "But as the fight goes into the late rounds, he will become tired because I will be hitting him hard."

The 41-year-old Stevenson said he'll be going for the knockout, a strategy endorsed by trainer Sugar Hill Steward, nephew of the legendary Emanuel Steward.

"I love knockouts," Steward said. "No disrespect to the other fighters, but my late uncle always said, 'Don't leave anything to the judges,' so that is why Adonis will be going for the knockout."

Stevenson's last fight was May 19 in Toronto, when

the bout ended in the champion's favor after a majority draw against Sweden's Badou Jack. It was Stevenson's ninth successful title defense since winning the belt against Chad Dawson in 2013.

Gvozdyk was a bronze medalist at the 2012 London Olympics. He'll have Teddy Atlas, boxing analyst on ESPN for the last 21 years, in his corner.

"We have a plan, we understand what's in front of us," Atlas said. "We came up with a plan to disarm the bomb that Stevenson has." □

Toronto Maple Leafs vs. San Jose Sharks

Continued on Page 19

game back playing on a line with speedsters Kasper Kapanen and Andreas Johnsson.

"After the first I felt terrible," Matthews said. "The second period, I didn't feel too good and then in the third period I got my legs."

John Tavares also scored twice, former San Jose star Patrick Marleau added a goal, Mitch Marner had three assists, and Johnsson finished with two assists to help Toronto improve to 18-8-0. Frederik Andersen made 38 saves to improve to 8-2-0 over his last 10 starts.

Tomas Hertl, Joe Pavelski and Melker Karlsson scored for San Jose, Logan Couture had two assists and Aaron Dell made 24 saves. "My personal opinion, I don't think we're close," Sharks forward Logan Couture said. "We show spurts and signs that we're capable (of playing with the best in the league) but we haven't put together an effort against a top-quality team. ... We got to figure it out soon. I'm a believer that it takes time. (But) I'm a believer that it doesn't take 26 games, so we need to figure it out."

Matthews sat out 14 games after taking a clean hit from Winnipeg's Jacob Trouba on Oct. 27. He had 10 goals and six assists in the first seven games of the season, but was held off the scoresheet in three consecutive outings before getting hurt. He made an almost immediate impact against San Jose, taking a pass from Marner and finding Tavares at the edge of the crease on a power play at 3:38.

San Jose got that one back at 10:40 when Hertl banged the puck past Andersen after Leafs defenseman Travis Dermott could only partially block Kevin Labanc's pass in front on a Sharks' man advantage. The Maple Leafs regained the lead just 39 seconds later on another power play

when Matthews ripped his 11th upstairs short-side on the helpless Dell.

Tavares made it 3-1 with 16.3 seconds left in the first when he finished off another pass from Marner, this time on an odd-man rush for his 17th goal of the season.

A third assist could have been credited to Leafs assistant equipment manager Bobby Hastings, who got a new stick to Marner after his broke right before the sequence that led to the goal.

"Put him on the scoresheet," Matthews joked. "That was unbelievable."

Toronto's power play connected a third time in three successive chances, this time with the No. 2 unit, at 1:53 of the second when Marleau took a clever pass from Johnsson and fired upstairs on Dell for his sixth and Toronto's third goal with the man advantage against the NHL's top penalty killing unit. The 39-year-old Marleau, who played 19 seasons with the Sharks, scored against San Jose for the first time, giving him at least one goal against all 31 NHL franchises.

"They went 3 for 4. You're not going to win on the road giving up two power-play goals nevermind three," San Jose coach Peter D'Boer said. "Our attention to detail on the PK is as good as anybody in the league. It wasn't tonight and you've got to give them credit." Pavelski got San Jose back within two when he scored his eighth on yet another power play, rifling a shot from the bottom of the left faceoff circle that Andersen could only get a piece of with the inside of his pad at 4:18.

Matthews put the game out of reach for good with his 12th midway through the third when he tipped Johnsson's shot past Dell's glove.

Melker Karlsson got one back for San Jose, his second, with 1:58 left in regula-



Toronto Maple Leafs center John Tavares (91) scores against San Jose Sharks goaltender Aaron Dell (30) during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018, in Toronto. Associated Press

tion.

Notes: Matthews has scored in all four career

games where he's returned from an injury. Toronto was 9-5-0 without Matthews

and is 10-3-0 overall in its last 13 games. □



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Milan avoids Europa League upset vs Luxembourg's Dudelange

By KAREL JANICEK
Associated Press

AC Milan was given a helping hand by two own goals as it survived a big scare before beating Dudelange of Luxembourg 5-2 in the Europa League on Thursday.

The seven-time European Cup winner trailed 2-1 early in the second half before storming back with four goals in the last 24 minutes in the Group F tie. Salzburg clinched a place

in the knockout stage with a 1-0 win over Leipzig in Group B, while Zenit defeated Copenhagen by the same score to go through from Group C. Real Betis also progressed in Group F after a 1-0



AC Milan's Fabio Borini scores his team's fifth goal during the Europa League soccer match between AC Milan and F-91 Dudelange at the San Siro Stadium, in Milan, Italy, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

Associated Press

home victory over Olympiacos. Dynamo Kiev went through with a 1-0 triumph at Astana in Group K, and was joined in the last 32 by Fenerbahce after it drew 0-0 with Dinamo Zagreb in Group D. Seven clubs, including Arsenal and Chelsea, had already qualified for the knockout stage. Arsenal secured top spot in Group E with a 3-0 victory at Vorskla on Thursday, a game that was switched from Poltava to Kiev because of political tension between Ukraine and Russia. Organizer UEFA ordered the game to be moved to the capital city after Ukraine imposed martial law in some regions of the country. Sporting thrashed Qarabag 6-1 to finish second behind Arsenal in the group.

Here's a look at Thursday's action:

MILAN FIGHTBACK

Patrick Cutrone gave Milan a 1-0 lead before Dudelange hit back with a right-foot shot high into the net from Dominik Stolz and a strike by Dave Turpel. The Italian heavyweight leveled with an own goal from Stelvio Rosa da Cruz in the 66th minute and four minutes later Hakan Calhanoglu made it 3-2. Tom Schnell also put through his own net with 13 minutes to go before substitute Fabio Borini finished off Dudelange. Milan has 10 points from five games in Group F, one behind Betis which made the knockout stage for the first time since 2014 thanks to its win over Olympiacos (seven points). Dudelange is bottom with zero points. □

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A father now, Hirscher feeling less pressure on the slopes

By PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. (AP)

— There's been a mountain of pressure on Austrian standout Marcel Hirscher for as long as he can remember: To capture that elusive Olympic gold medal. To keep his overall World Cup title streak going. To remain so dominant.

Heading into this season, the weight doesn't seem so heavy anymore.

Hirscher earned that Olympic gold last February — two, actually — and the burden to win an eighth straight overall title has been mitigated by recently becoming a father. That's changed his entire outlook, even to the point where the 29-year-old vows to take a hard look at his future on the slopes once the season concludes.

Then again, he's hinted at stepping away before.

"I want to see this little guy growing up," said Hirscher, who will race a World Cup giant slalom this weekend in Beaver Creek, Colorado. "The hundredths of a second in a race? That is not the most important thing in my life. They have been very important and they are still important. But that's not the most important thing."

"It's definitely a big point



In this Feb. 18, 2018, file photo, Austria's Marcel Hirscher competes during the men's giant slalom at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

on my list at the end of the season, where I have to make a decision."

One of Hirscher's longtime adversaries, American racer Ted Ligety, has a young son, too. It could set up another version of their rivalry in, say, 2038.

Hirscher vs. Ligety, chapter two.

"Hopefully not," said Hirscher, whose wife, Laura Moisl, gave birth in early October. "Maybe golfing or something."

So no ski racing?

"It's his choice, but ski racing with all those injuries ...

I'm super happy with no injuries really," Hirscher said. "If you see other colleagues, it can be for the rest of your life a tough situation."

Hirscher recently won a World Cup slalom race in Levi, Finland, showing that his training is trending in the right direction. It's been a different sort of prep period for him, with the arrival of his son.

"Now I have two businesses to be good in," Hirscher said.

"This is definitely a big change. It's a really good change."

About the seven straight title streak: Should it end this season or next or farther down the road, he doesn't think that will be a bad thing.

"Because if it is not possible anymore, this crazy pressure of winning this big crystal globe has gone away. Maybe 300 or 500 pounds off my shoulder," Hirscher said. "It could be amazing, or even a present."

Still, he's expertly navigated the tension. His strategy is simple: Don't think too far ahead, just race to race.

"It's sort of a mind game,

where I can just try my best," Hirscher said. "If it is not working I can always say to myself, 'Hey, I've done everything.' The preparation, the dry-land training, I've tried every day to give out the maximum. The other side is, if there's someone else that can do it better, say hello to myself and let's try it."

One big burden was lifted at the Olympics. For all his accomplishments — 59 World Cup wins, four world championship titles — he hadn't won a Winter Games gold medal. At the Pyeongchang Olympics, he followed a win in the combined with another in the giant slalom.

"For the media stuff, it changed a lot," said Hirscher, who also took home silver in the slalom from the 2014 Sochi Games. "For me personally, it was more like, 'OK, I'm very thankful that I reached this and won this gold medal.' But for me personally it was more fascinating to win the seven consecutive big crystal globes."

"All those years I've always said the same sentence about the same question: What has more worth, the Olympic gold medal or big crystal globe? It's the same answer." □

Associated Press

Perles, citing health, resigns as Michigan State trustee

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP)

— George Perles resigned as a member of Michigan State University's governing board after nearly 12 years, the school said Thursday, ending decades of service as a football player, coach, athletic director and trustee.

Perles, 84, noted his age and struggle with Parkinson's disease, a progressive nervous system disorder, in a letter to Brian Breslin, chairman of the board of trustees. He often participated in public meetings by telephone.

"The ramifications of my health issues continue to grow," Perles wrote

Wednesday. "I have been blessed with a wife who has sacrificed much to tend to my needs and to provide constant care. At this juncture, I feel that Sally deserves some respite. We need to make our life smaller as we age and consider our quality of life." Perles had been a Michigan State football coach and athletic director before winning statewide election as a trustee in 2006. A Democrat, he was re-elected to an eight-year term in 2014.

Breslin, a Republican, suggested Republican Gov. Rick Snyder would name a replacement and not leave it to the next gover-

nor, Democrat Gretchen Whitmer, who takes office on Jan. 1.

Indeed, Snyder spokesman Ari Adler said the governor's staff would make recommendations "as soon as possible."

Perles played football at Michigan State in the 1950s. After a successful run as an assistant coach with the NFL's Pittsburgh Steelers, he returned to East Lansing as head coach before the 1983 season. The 1987 Spartans won the Big Ten and the Rose Bowl. Perles was fired in 1994.

A few months ago, a woman alleged that he covered up a rape allegation against sports doctor



In this March 16, 2016, file photo, former Michigan State head football coach George Perles watches a Pro Day college football workout at Michigan State in East Lansing.

Associated Press

Larry Nassar when Perles was athletic director in 1992. Pat Perles called it a "fabrication" and insisted

his father had never met the woman, who was a 17-year-old field hockey player. □

Race on: It's Stockholm vs. Milan-Cortina for 2026 Olympics

By **STEPHEN WADE**

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — After finding it difficult to sell the 2026 Winter Olympics, the IOC finally has two countries that are all in: Sweden and Italy. It's Stockholm, the capital of Sweden and the self-described capital of Scandinavia, up against a joint Italian bid of Milan — a global fashion capital — and the ski resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo.

"I will refrain from making any comments because I guess both candidate cities are in the room," International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach said Thursday, addressing a convention of 1,400 delegates from the world's 206 Olympic committees. "They will note every word I've said and go home and interpret it one way or the other."

Bach and the IOC have what they want: bids that will take the Winter Olympics back to a traditional venue after winter games in Russia, South Korea — and in 2022 in Beijing.

China got the games by attrition, winning by four votes over Almaty, Kazakhstan, after a half-dozen European bidders dropped



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach delivers a speech during the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) general assembly in Tokyo Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

out, discouraged by soaring costs and taxpayer backlash.

For 2026, it seems different with the IOC picking the winner in June in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Although several cities voted in referendums not to bid — including Calgary, Canada, earlier this month — and several dropped out, the two left standing have deep roots in snow and ice.

"These are two good bids, but we think it's time for Sweden," Peter Reinebo, the COO of the Swedish Olympic Committee, told The Associated Press.

Sweden was host to the 1912 Olympics, but has never held the Winter Games. Italy has held two Winter Olympics — 1956 in Cortina d'Ampezzo and 2006 in Turin — and the Summer Games in Rome in 1960.

Both bidders say they are

almost ready to go with little to build. The IOC says Stockholm would construct three new venues, and Italy will need one. The rest of the venues in both bids will be temporary, existing, or existing venues that will be refurbished.

Both say their operating budgets will be about \$1.5 billion, which is the budget for running the games themselves. Both downplay the need for much govern-

ment spending, although Olympic costs — always difficult to track — often double, or triple.

The Milan-Cortina bid already has a pledge of added funding support from the national government. But most of the load will be on two wealthy regional governments of Lombardy and Veneto, and the private sector.

Italian Olympic Committee president Giovanni Malago described the bid as "the efficiency of a great metropolis with the charm of the mountains. It is a great display of teamwork with a single goal: to bring the Olympic and Paralympic Games back to Italy."

Skating sports and hockey would be held in Milan, with Alpine skiing and sliding events in Cortina, which will hold the 2021 world ski championships. Other snow sports like snowboarding and freestyle skiing could be contested in Bormio and Livigno north of Milan. Other venues are also in play across northern Italy.

"It's a race, we have to arrive first," said Danilo di Tommaso, spokesman for the Italian Olympic Committee. □

Associated Press

Leishman 2 strokes behind after Australian PGA first round



Australia's Marc Leishman hits an approach shot during the World Cup of Golf in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2018.

Associated Press

Associated Press

GOLD COAST, Australia (AP) — Marc Leishman's quest for a first professional victory at home made a

good start with a 4-under 68 to sit two strokes behind the Australian PGA first-round leaders on Thursday. Leishman, starting on the

10th, had two bogeys and two birdies on his first nine before making birdie on four of his final seven holes at Royal Pines.

Leaders Jake McLeod and fellow Australian Matt Jager shot 66s, and led by one stroke over Jae-woong Eom and Dimitrios Papadatos.

Leishman, who was in a group tied for fifth, said his round could have been better.

"Seven under would be a great score around here," he said. "It's been the goal of mine for the last few years, when I don't have my best golf, my best stuff, to still shoot under par. I'm getting better at it."

American Harold Varner III, who won the tournament in 2016 and has finished sec-

ond in a playoff and sixth in three Australian PGAs at Royal Pines, shot 69.

Defending champion Cameron Smith shot 70, as did England's Andrew "Beef" Johnston, who recovered from being 3 over after three holes, when he was talking of quitting his round.

Starting on the 10th, Johnston hooked drives on the 10th and 12th holes into water hazards.

"I nearly walked off the course after 12, to be honest," Johnston said. "It's been a frustrating year, and yeah, it's really annoyed me in the past. But I spoke to my girlfriend and she just said keep going, so I just tried to stay calm. Luckily I turned it around."

Australian veteran John

Senden had an air swing on the par-5 ninth hole after the shaft on his driver flexed and snapped in his grip during his downswing. It left Senden off balance and wringing his right hand, and led to a long discussion with the rules officials.

Senden argued unsuccessfully that on feeling the club snap, he attempted to pull out of the shot. There was no penalty recorded but the shot counted as Senden's second and he went on to make a bogey 6. He shot 72.

"There's no exception, it's just the rule, you can't argue against the rule," Senden said. "When you intend to hit a shot and you don't hit it, it's one stroke, that's the way it goes." □

NBA making a 'long-term play' in Africa

By **KEN MAGUIRE**

Associated Press

SALY, Senegal (AP) — Timothy Lghoeфе is an intimidating defender at 6-foot-11 and 245 pounds. Still, the Nigerian knows he must improve if his decision to play basketball instead of soccer is going to pay off and take him to the NBA.

The 18-year-old Lghoeфе has committed to play for Patrick Ewing at Georgetown University next season, only three years after switching to basketball in his hometown of Lagos.

"I need to work on my speed, running down the floor baseline to baseline," Lghoeфе said this week at the unveiling of a new training facility at the NBA's African academy in Senegal. "My left hand, I need to improve, to finish with my left hand."

In other words, there's potential but it's a work in progress — just like Africa itself for the NBA.

"It's a continent with over a billion people, with a fast-growing economy, fast-growing young urban population. That's a good recipe for the NBA long term," said NBA deputy commissioner Mark Tatum, also in Senegal for the training facility opening.

The NBA has big plans for Africa. An office was established eight years ago in South Africa. There's an annual exhibition game featuring NBA stars.

Now, the NBA's top brass says Africa is ready for more. Tatum said they're creating a pan-African league that will involve existing professional clubs, and that NBA pre-season and regular-season games will be held on the continent "in the next couple of years."

Another step is the new



In this Aug. 7, 2010 file photo, soccer and basketball games overlap as boys share space on a basketball court local residents say was built several years ago by Charlotte Bobcats' Dasagana Diop in the neighborhood where he grew up in Dakar, Senegal.

Associated Press

training center, built on the campus of a soccer academy in a coastal resort town 45 miles south of the Senegalese capital Dakar. Saly, a former Portuguese trading post, is now a getaway spot for Dakar's upper class and is home to many French people.

The two parquet courts were imported from the United States. Simply being indoors and with air conditioning probably makes it the best basketball facility in Senegal. A fabric, tent-like covering is stitched together over steel trusses, and repurposed shipping containers facing the courts are used for weight training.

The academy is one of seven around the world, with three of them in China. It

features fulltime schooling and training. It can accommodate 24 boys selected from English- and French-speaking African countries. The NBA holds camps for elite African girls, but there's no center for them yet.

"All you have to do here is just focus on basketball and school," Lghoeфе said. "You don't have to be worried about anything else. In Lagos, it's different. There are a lot of distractions."

The teenage boys begin their days with a light workout at 5:30 a.m. Then it's breakfast, school, lunch, school, gym. They're coached by former NBA and NCAA players and have traveled to Australia, Europe and the United States for tournaments.

Amadou Gallo Fall, NBA

vice president and managing director for Africa, said the NBA is building from the grassroots, like the Jr. NBA programs expanding across the continent.

"We are only scratching the surface," said Fall, a Senegal native who founded the nearby SEED Academy, which works closely with the NBA's African operation. "We are empowering young people through basketball and in the process elite talent is going come out and get into the NBA, and also feed other leagues across the world, and our future league on the continent." This season began with 13 African-born players on NBA rosters. Tatum said details of the pan-African league will be announced within months.

It will involve co-operation from FIBA and existing professional leagues, he said.

"We're trying to find a way to do it quickly, to be able to work with some of those leagues, to work with our partner FIBA, to get something up and running sooner rather than later," Tatum said.

Africa lacks good infrastructure, but Tatum cited the new Dakar Arena, as well as Rwanda's plan for a new facility, as incentive for the NBA to bring games here. He called the Dakar Arena a "world-class facility" but wouldn't confirm the Senegalese sports minister's announcement moments earlier that it would host the NBA exhibition game next year. South Africa hosted the first three NBA Africa exhibitions but West African countries like Senegal and Nigeria appear more eager to embrace basketball. Soccer is by far the most popular sport in Africa. The likes of Liverpool and Barcelona boast fan clubs all over the continent, and the European start times make it easier to watch live.

Lghoeфе catches highlights of his favorite player, Joel Embiid of the Philadelphia 76ers, on the mornings after games. He watches on YouTube and follows the Cameroonian star on Instagram.

African kids can play soccer with just a ball and any bit of space, even a street. But finding a basketball court, even just a cement half-court and a rim, is hard. Ibrahima Ndiaye, director of Flying Star academy in Dakar, which has produced several NCAA Division 1 players, said the NBA can dramatically increase youth participation by building courts — a lot of them. □

Olympic figure skating champion Hanyu to miss to GP Final

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Two-time Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan will miss the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final due to a right ankle injury, the Japan Skating

Federation said Thursday. The 23-year-old Hanyu twisted his right ankle during a practice at the Rostelecom Cup on Nov. 17, and will be unable to compete in the Dec. 6-8 GP Fi-

nal in Vancouver, Canada. Hanyu's withdrawal means Shoma Uno will be the lone Japanese male taking part. In addition to winning back-to-back Olympic golds and world championships,

Hanyu won the Grand Prix Final four consecutive times between 2013 and 2016. He was aiming to become the first skater, male or female, to win five GP titles overall.

The GP Final features the top six skaters from the International Skating Union's Grand Prix series. Hanyu qualified by winning the Grand Prix of Helsinki and the Rostelecom Cup. □

In China, your car could be talking to the government

By ERIKA KINETZ

Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — Global automakers are feeding real-time location information and dozens of other data points from electric vehicles to Chinese government monitoring centers, potentially adding to China's rich kit of surveillance tools as President Xi Jinping steps up the use of technology to track Chinese citizens. Generally, it happens without car owners' knowledge, The Associated Press found.

More than 200 automakers selling electric vehicles in China — including Tesla, Volkswagen, BMW, Daimler, Ford, General Motors, Nissan, Mitsubishi and U.S.-listed start-up NIO — send at least 61 data points to government-backed monitoring platforms, under rules published in 2016.

Automakers say they are merely complying with local laws, which apply only to alternative energy vehicles. Chinese officials say the data is used for analytics to improve public safety, facilitate industrial development and infrastructure planning, and to prevent fraud in subsidy programs. But critics say the information collected exceeds those goals and could be used to undermine foreign carmakers' competitive position, or for surveillance. Under Xi's leadership, China has unleashed a war on dissent, marshalling big data and artificial intelligence to create a more perfect kind of policing that can quickly neutralize perceived threats to the stability of the ruling Communist Party.

There is also concern about the precedent these rules set for sharing data from next-generation connected cars, which may soon transmit even more person-



In this June 22, 2018, photo, Shan Junhua chats about privacy near his white Tesla while charging it in Shanghai.

al information.

"You're learning a lot about people's day-to-day activities and that becomes part of what I call ubiquitous surveillance," said Michael Chertoff, who was secretary of the Department of Homeland Security under President George W. Bush and wrote a book called "Exploding Data." "Companies have to ask themselves, 'Is this really something we want to do in terms of our corporate values, even if it means otherwise forgoing that market?'"

At the Shanghai Electric Vehicle Public Data Collecting, Monitoring and Research Center, a wall-sized screen glows with dots. Each represents one of more than 222,000 vehicles connected to the system, coursing along Shanghai's roads to create a massive real-time map that could reveal where people live, shop, work, and worship.

Data also flows to a national monitoring center run by the Beijing Institute of Technology, which pulls informa-

tion from more than 1.1 million new energy vehicles. Those numbers are about to get much bigger, as Beijing pushes electric vehicle development as part of its "Made in China 2025" industrial development plan.

Ding Xiaohua, the deputy director of the Shanghai center, said monitoring is not designed to facilitate state surveillance, though data can be shared with police, prosecutors or courts, if a formal request is made. The center is registered as a non-profit but is tightly aligned with and funded by the government. There is a privacy firewall built into the system. The data center has each car's unique vehicle identification number, but to link that with the owner's personal details, it must go through the automaker — a step it has taken in the past. Chinese law enforcement can also link the vehicle identification number with the owner's personal information.

"To speak bluntly, the gov-

ernment doesn't need to surveil through a platform like ours," Ding said.

Many vehicles in the U.S., Europe and Japan transmit position information back to automakers, who feed it to car-tracking apps, maps that pinpoint nearby amenities and emergency services providers. But the data stops there. Government or law enforcement agencies would generally only be able to access vehicle data in the context of a specific criminal investigation and in the U.S. would typically need a court order, lawyers said.

Automakers initially resisted sharing information with the Shanghai monitoring center; then the government made transmitting data a prerequisite for getting incentives.

"They gave you dozens of reasons why they can't give you the data," said a government consultant who helped evaluate the policy and spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive issues. "Then we offer the incentives. Then they want to give us the data because it's part of their profit."

There was concern the shared data might reveal proprietary information about, for example, how hybrids switch between gas and battery power,

and eventually set automakers up for commercial competition with a Chinese government entity.

Ding said confidentiality agreements protect proprietary company information. Still, he is open about his desire to make money from the data. "We have done some explorations," he said. "But there is still a distance from truly monetizing it."

China's ability to grab data as it flows from cars gives it an edge. China tends to view technology development as a key competitive resource. Though global automakers have received billions in incentives and subsidies from U.S., European and Japanese governments, they are contributing data to China that ultimately serves Beijing's strategic interests.

Automakers stressed they share data to comply with Chinese law and obtain consent from car owners. Nearly all have announced plans to aggressively expand electric vehicle offerings in China, the world's biggest car market.

Volkswagen Group China chief executive Jochem Heizmann said he could not guarantee the data would not be used for government surveillance, but stressed that Volkswagen keeps personal data, like the driver's identity, secure within its own systems.

"It includes the location of the car, yes, but not who is sitting in it," he said, adding that cars won't reveal more information than smart phones already do. "There is not a principle difference between sitting in a car and being in a shopping mall and having a smart phone with you."

But not all electric vehicle owners feel the same. Standing beside his white Tesla Model X, Shan Junhua said he might not have bought the car if he'd known its journeys were being recorded.

"Tesla could have it, but why do they transmit it to the government?" Shan said. "Because this is about privacy." □



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Inflation angst: Businesses face higher labor, vendor costs

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Diners are willing to pay more at Manhattan's upscale Gotham Bar and Grill, but price increases these days aren't about snob appeal — the restaurant is contending with higher costs, particularly from rising wages.

"We have been forced to raise our prices to offset this expense and our pricing still doesn't compensate fully for the increase," says Bret Csencsitz, managing partner in the restaurant located in the Greenwich Village section.

Gotham's hourly wages have gone up along with the city's minimum wage, which rose \$2 an hour to \$13 last December and will reach \$15 this Dec. 31. The restaurant is also paying more for ingredients, especially eggs and other dairy items that are key dessert components.

Higher labor costs due to a tight employment market and rising minimum wages in states like New York are a key factor as some small businesses struggle with inflation and consider whether to pass higher expenses along to customers. Wholesale prices, which reflect what businesses pay for goods and services, rose 0.6 percent in October, the largest increase in six years. Consumer prices, which the Federal Reserve considers as it determines whether to raise interest rates, were up 2.5 percent from October 2017.

Economists consider U.S. inflation to currently be mostly in check, but individual businesses can feel the impact of higher prices in differing ways, depending on where they're located, whether they have employees, are in tight real estate markets and face the Trump administration's tariffs on imports.

Owners have varying strategies for coping with inflation. Where possible, they try to negotiate lower prices with suppliers or search for new vendors. They may change products or services to avoid raising prices or keep the increases to a



In this Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 photo, a bartender talks to a customer at the Gotham Bar and Grill in New York.

minimum. Others understand when they're forced to charge more that they may lose some business.

Gotham won't downscale its menu, and while it has raised prices, it's also absorbing costs rather than lose customers, Csencsitz says.

"There is a limit to what the consumer is willing to accept to dine out. We'd rather take a hit on the bottom line," he says.

Just a few years ago, Tom Malesic was able to pay a website developer at his Lancaster, Pennsylvania, internet marketing company \$35,000. Now, he says, "we're lucky to get one at \$60,000."

"Our biggest business expense is labor. Our salaries have had to go up substantially to stay competitive and attract the people that we need to be successful," says Malesic, owner of EZ-Solution. He also has other rising expenses, including software that's upgraded yearly and costs more with each enhancement.

Malesic has had to raise prices, but rather than implementing an across-the-board increase, he's created a tiered system, packaging services and pricing them according to what each package offers. Customer response has been positive, he says.

"In the last year, we've done a better job at repositioning and being transparent about what they get," Malesic says. "That's definitely been helpful."

Raising prices is difficult in the printing industry, where many companies have shut down in the past decade, not only because of the recession, but because their business customers no longer send printed documents through the mail.

"I had to keep my prices decently low just not to go out of business," says Joy Gendusa, owner of Postcardmania in Clearwater, Florida. She absorbed the increases by resigning herself to lower profit margins. Now, however, with labor costs up \$22,000 a week this year including what she pays for staffers' health insurance, she's passing some increases to customers.

"We've had to raise our

prices to afford the creme de la creme of personnel," says Gendusa, who has 235 employees. She's also finding ways to diversify; she's added electronic mailing services that bring in more revenue and are more profitable than printing.

When inflation manifests itself in the form of soaring rents, some companies shut down, forcing their small business customers to find new suppliers. When some of Haldora Bjornsson's fabric vendors in New York's Garment District closed, she had fewer resources for the silk she uses in custom-made women's clothes.

"Now, there aren't so many choices, and we are paying a higher cost," says Bjornsson, owner of Haldora, a store in Rhinebeck, New York.

Bjornsson also pays more for thread and buttons and is concerned that Trump administration tariffs could

exacerbate the increases. While customers expect to pay more for her clothes — her signature shirt ranges from \$258 to \$649 — Bjornsson is hesitant to raise her own prices because she doesn't want to lose sales. The solution, she says, is to scale back the types of fabric she uses.

"I make less silk (shirts) than I used to.

I'm still using linen and cotton," Bjornsson says.

Owners whose companies require frequent travel are getting hit hard, especially if they're not flying in and out of major hubs.

"I'm finding that coming out of Santa Fe and Albuquerque (New Mexico), the inexpensive flights I used to take are sold out," says Sarah Boisvert, who takes about five trips a month for her technology training company, Fab Lab Hub. She estimates her travel expenses are up by a third this year.

Boisvert flies to cities like Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, and fares are higher than on more heavily traveled routes like New York-Los Angeles. Some tickets she used to pay \$400 for now cost \$900.

But Boisvert, whose company helps train people in skills like 3D printing, gets funding from grants and can't pass along cost increases. She has to take steps that are hard for a company focused on new technology. "We have to cut elsewhere — delay new equipment purchases, for example," she says. □




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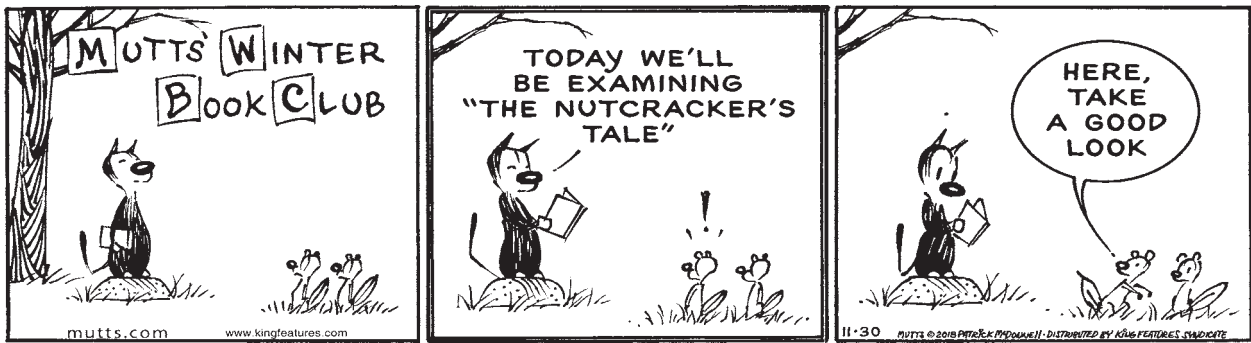
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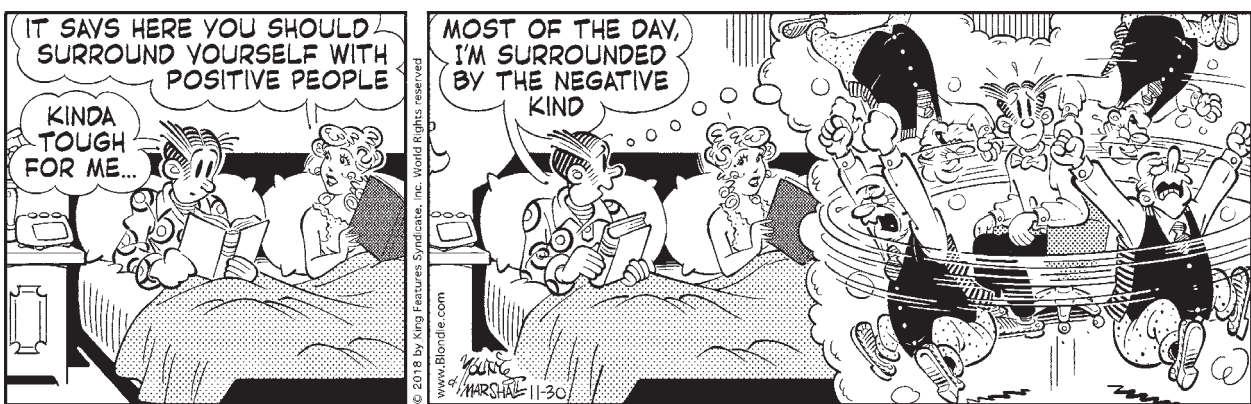
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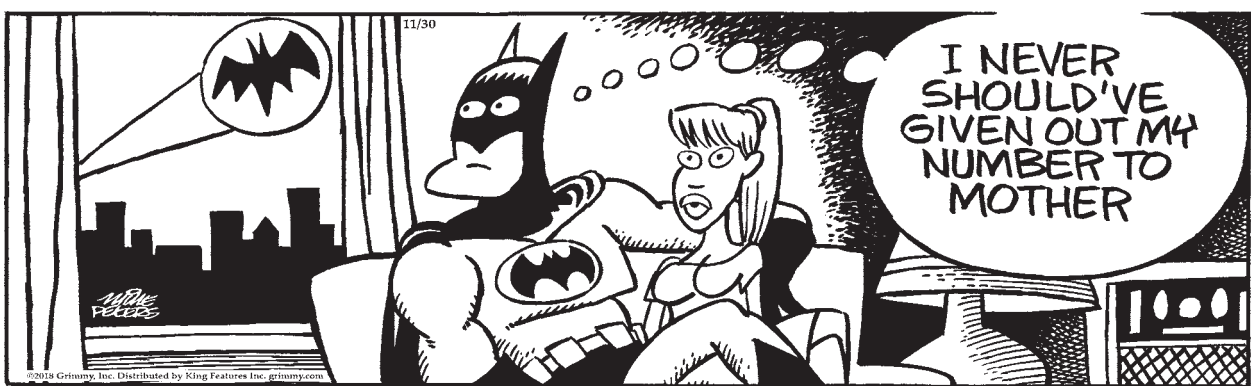
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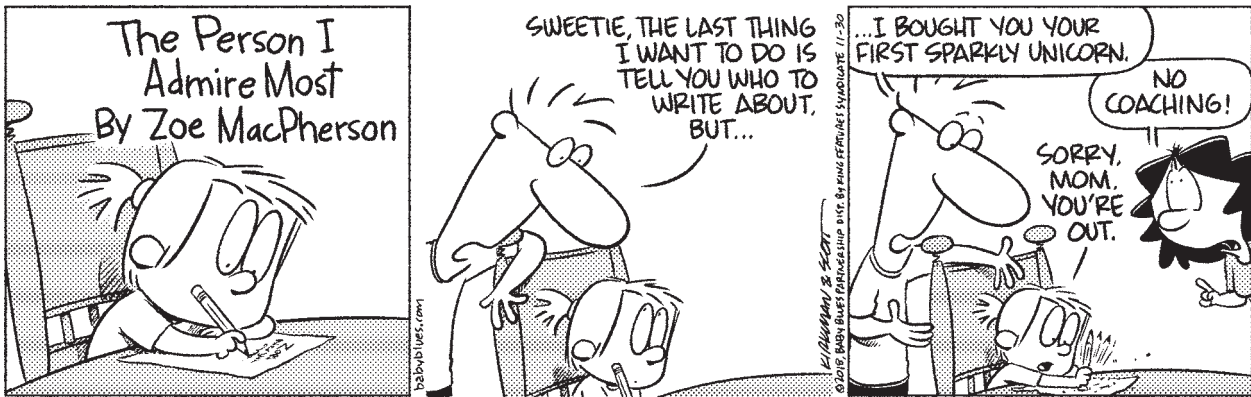
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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6	7			1			3
	3			2		8	
				8			9
3	8						
	2					6	
					4		1
2		5					
	7		3			4	
4		1			2		5

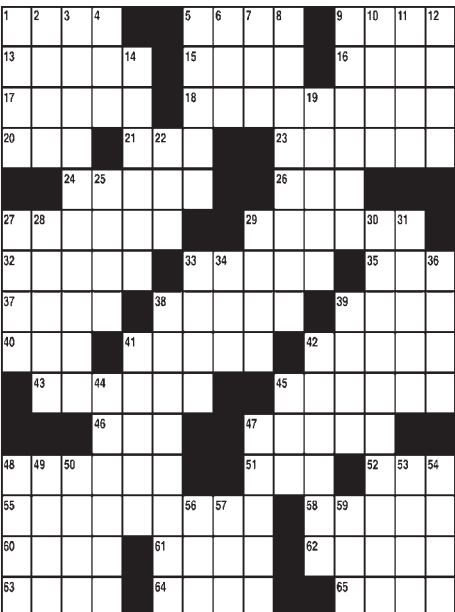
Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	7	2	4	5	8	9	3	6
5	6	4	2	3	9	1	8	7
3	9	8	1	7	6	5	2	4
8	1	3	5	6	4	7	9	2
2	5	6	7	9	3	8	4	1
9	4	7	8	1	2	6	5	3
6	2	5	9	4	1	3	7	8
7	8	1	3	2	5	4	6	9
4	3	9	6	8	7	2	1	5

- ACROSS
- 1 Chocolate ___ cookies
 - 5 Many an East European
 - 9 ___ the fool; ___ behaves stupidly
 - 13 Solitary
 - 15 Sharpen
 - 16 Cowboy's shoe
 - 17 Subside
 - 18 ___ of; next to
 - 20 Physician, familiarly
 - 21 Coolidge, to friends
 - 23 Prior to today
 - 24 Discontinue
 - 26 Galloped
 - 27 Business declines
 - 29 Play
 - 32 Accepted standards
 - 33 Line of travel
 - 35 Short sleep
 - 37 "___ in a Manger"
 - 38 Sudden forward rush
 - 39 Office note
 - 40 Acquire
 - 41 Old Roman robes
 - 42 Make merry
 - 43 Passes on, as a message
 - 45 In one's dotage
 - 46 "I ___ poor wayfaring stranger..."
 - 47 Counter an argument
 - 48 Digger's tool
 - 51 Thirsty Frenchman's need
 - 52 IM pioneer
 - 55 "The Pelican State"
 - 58 Fictional tale
 - 60 Linkletter & others
 - 61 Small store
 - 62 Uses an emery board
 - 63 TV series for Mike Farrell
 - 64 Bugle song
 - 65 Late July babies



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/30/18

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

3	Wrong	4	Animal in the house	5	Layered rock	6	Chat room laugh	7	Year south of the border	8	Worship	9	Not present	10	Quarter or dime	11	Commotion	12	One-dish meal	14	Summarizes	19	Kelly or Slick	22	Donkey	25	Acting award	27	Unexpected obstacle	28	Certain berth	29	Yanks	30	Sure to happen	31	Bedouin's transport	33	Floor coverings	34	"___ Clear Day, You Can See Forever"	36	Flagstaff	38	U.S. colonist supportive of Britain	39	Restaurant's list	41	Subdues	42	Reject sharply	44	Lush; profuse	45	Body of water	47	Gathers crops	48	Close angrily	49	Circle dance	50	On the ___ with; not speaking to	53	Bread spread	54	Not as much	56	___ moment; instant of realization	57	File drawer, perhaps	59	Feel miserable
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We'll take your lobsters, eh? Canadian imports from US soar

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

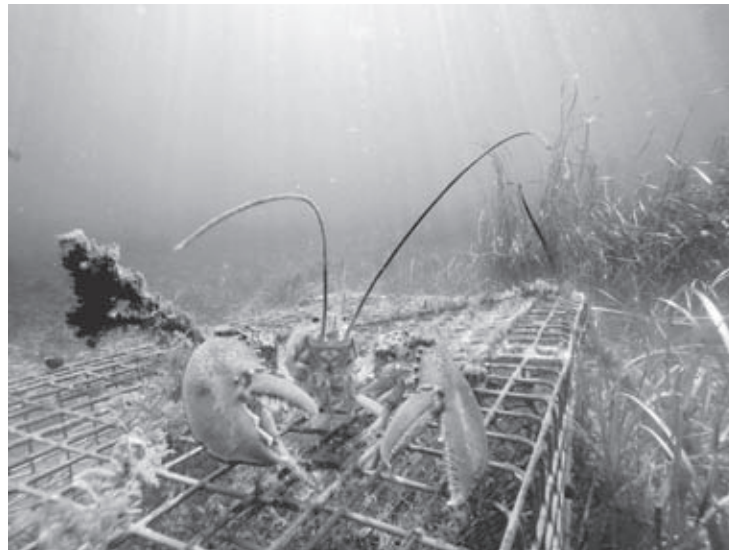
PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

Trade hostility from across the ocean was supposed to take a snip out of the U.S. lobster business, but the industry is getting a lifeline from its northern neighbor. Heavy demand from Canada is buoying American lobster as both countries head into the busy holiday export season, according to federal statistics and members of the industry. It's a positive sign for U.S. seafood dealers and fishermen, even as the industry struggles with Chinese tariffs.

China emerged as a major consumer of American lobster earlier this decade, but the country slapped heavy tariffs on exports in July amid its trade kerfuffle with President Donald Trump's administration. Lobster exports slowed to a crawl.

Industry watchers forecast the move as a potential calamity for U.S. seafood, but Canada has boosted the value of its lobster imports from America by more than a third so far this year, up to more than \$180 million through September. Canada has its own lobster fishing industry, which harvests the same species as U.S. fishermen, and the country sells lobsters domestically as well as to Europe and Asia. The country's importing so many from the U.S. this year because it needs enough supply to send to China, said members of the lobster industry on both sides of the border. "They go there to go to China, to avoid the tariffs," said Spiros Tourkakis, executive vice president of East Coast Seafood, a dealer in Topsfield, Massachusetts.

The brisk sales to Canada are among a number of unexpectedly positive signs in a U.S. lobster fishery that had been primed for a difficult year. The lobster fishing business is based mostly in Maine, where the catch fell by about a sixth last year to a little less than 111 million pounds. The price to fisher-



In this Sept. 5, 2018, file photo a lobster walks over the top of a lobster trap off the coast of Biddeford, Maine.

Associated Press

men was also down slightly last year.

This year's catch total won't be available until early 2019, but it appears to have been a strong year, and prices to fishermen seemed to be a little bit better, said Beth Casoni, executive director of the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association. Lobsters have also been easy to find in stores for domestic consumers, and the retail and wholesale prices have been competitive with recent years.

"Most of the guys feel like they've had a pretty good year," Casoni said. "About a month ago everybody was really concerned about not going to China due to the tariffs. From what I've heard, there hasn't been

much of an impact locally."

The Chinese tariffs remain a concern for New England's international seafood dealers, who have seen China grow from a tiny fraction of the international market to one of its biggest buyers. The country took about 5 million pounds of U.S. lobster, valued at \$40 million, from July to September last year, and saw those number about halved this year. The loss of Chinese market share has come at a time when American lobster shippers have also lost ground in Europe, as Canada and the European Union reached a seafood trade deal that put the U.S. at a disadvantage. □



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Younger school entry could set stage for ADHD diagnosis

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON**
Associated Press

The youngest children in kindergarten are more likely to be diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in early grades, a study shows, an intriguing finding for parents on the fence about when to start their child in school.

The study found younger students, especially boys, are also more likely to be started on medications for ADHD and kept on the drugs longer than the oldest children. The medications are generally safe, but can have harmful side effects.

"Doctors and therapists need to factor that into their decision-making," said study co-author Dr. Anupam Jena of Harvard Medical School. They should ask, "Does he really have ADHD, or is it because he needs six more months to mature? That extra year makes a big difference."

About 6 million U.S. children and teenagers have been diagnosed with ADHD, which causes inattention, hyperactivity and impulsiv-



In this Sept. 8, 2015 file photo, a reluctant student is pulled into the first day of kindergarten at an elementary School in Clio, Mich.

Associated Press

ity. The rate of diagnosis is climbing.

The study, published Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine, stemmed from a lunchroom conversation about "kindergarten red-shirting" for a co-author's son. The term is borrowed from athletics and means

waiting a year to give a child time to mature.

"The parents were thinking about whether or not to hold their child back an additional year," Jena recalled. That led the researchers to ask, "What happens to kids who are in the same class who are perceived to be different?"

They used insurance claims to compare more than 71,000 students with August and September birthdays in 18 states with Sept. 1 cutoffs. A child who turns 5 before Sept. 1 can start kindergarten. If not, the child waits until the next year. An August birthday can mean a child is the youngest in

class while those born in September are the oldest. Overall, from birth to the first few years of school, the number of children diagnosed with ADHD was low. The researchers calculated that the rate of ADHD diagnosis was a third higher in August-born kids than in September-born kids, based on 309 cases among about 36,300 with August birthdays and 225 cases among about 35,300 born in September.

There was no group difference before age 4; it showed up after school enrollment.

The researchers also looked at asthma, diabetes and obesity rates and found they were the same for the August and September babies. And no other month-to-month comparison showed a sharp difference in ADHD.

Finally, using insurance data for more than 400,000 children in all 50 states, the researchers looked at states that don't use a Sept. 1 cutoff and the effect disappeared. □

Tumor-free flounder: Study underscores Boston Harbor rebirth



In this Aug. 25, 2016 file photo, Boston Light flashes in outer Boston Harbor.

Associated Press

By **PHILIP MARCELO**
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A canary in a coal mine? How about a flounder in a harbor?

In a study published last week in the journal Diseases of Aquatic Organisms, scientists at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts declared that flounder in Boston's once notoriously polluted harbor are now tumor-free. It's turnaround from the late 1980s, when more than three-quarters of the species in Boston Harbor were found to have signs of liver disease, including cancerous tumors.

But Michael Moore, the Woods Hole biologist who authored the study published in the academic journal Diseases of Aquatic Organisms, said his team hasn't found a tumor on a flounder since 2004.

"The fish aren't getting liver

tumors anymore," he said. Moore has been monitoring harbor flounder since 1986, when the poor health of the once-bountiful, bottom-feeding fish became emblematic of the harbor's broader environmental challenges.

The health of the flounder that generations of Bostonians had fished helped spur a series of lawsuits.

A landmark federal court decision in 1985 compelled Massachusetts to properly treat sewage dumped into the harbor, resulting in billions of dollars in public works projects.

Chief among them was the completion of a new sewage treatment plant on the harbor in the 1990s and the opening of a massive underground tunnel directing discharge from the sewage plant nearly 10 miles out of the harbor into Massachusetts Bay in 2000.

The results have been dramatic, with porpoises, seals, humpback whales and other marine animals that had been rarely if ever seen in the harbor now regularly popping up, says Tony LaCasse, the spokesman for the New England Aquarium that overlooks Boston Harbor.

"The people of Massachusetts spent billions of dollars to reclaim their harbor, and it worked," he said.

The turnaround of the harbor — once considered the country's dirtiest — can also be seen in the improved water quality in the rivers that feed into it and the high marks its beaches have received for cleanliness in recent years, according to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, the drinking water and sewage agency created in the wake of the 1985 decision. □

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Sundance Film Festival unveils 2019 feature film slate

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Annette Bening plays Senator Dianne Feinstein, Zac Efron takes on Ted Bundy, Awkwafina dives into a dramatic role, and Harvey Weinstein gets a documentary spotlight in films that will premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival in January.

The Sundance Institute revealed on Wednesday 111 feature films, culled from 4,018 submissions, set to screen at the annual festival this January in Park City, Utah.

From incisive documentaries to groundbreaking dramas and edgy genre fare, films that launch at Sundance make up many of independent films populating theaters for the rest of the year, and often find their way into the Oscar conversation too (think, "Get Out" and "Call Me By Your Name"). Films that debuted earlier this year at Sundance include awards buzzworthy documentaries like "RBG," "Three Identical Strangers" and "Won't You Be My Neighbor" and narrative films like "Wildlife," "Private



In this combination photo, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., arrives for a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Dec. 6, 2017, left, and actress Annette Bening appears at the BAFTA Awards in London on Feb. 18, 2018.

Life," "Eighth Grade" and "Sorry to Bother You." Festival programmers promise a similar breadth of original viewpoints, authenticity in storytelling, new talents, a particularly robust world cinema section and films that might show actors in a new light. "The Farewell," from director Lulu Wang, is just one of those. It features this

summer's comedy breakout Awkwafina ("Crazy Rich Asians" and "Ocean's 8") in a dramatic turn as a Chinese-American woman who returns to China to stay with her terminally ill grandmother. "I think it's a great showcase for her," said Kim Yutani, Sundance's new director of programming. Festival director John

Cooper notes that "Honey Boy," written by and starring Shia LaBeouf, is also one that might surprise audiences. Lucas Hedges plays a younger version of LaBeouf in this story about a child TV star and his father. "He's stepping out into a place that I would say is very raw and real for him," said Cooper. A few actors are taking

on real life persons, like Bening as Dianne Feinstein in "The Report," from director and screenwriter Scott Z. Burns. It focuses on the Senate's study into the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program and co-stars Adam Driver and Jon Hamm.

"It's kind of one of those Meryl Streep star turns where she gets all the nuance of her," said Cooper.

Efron is playing Ted Bundy in the Joe Berlinger film "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile," which takes on the infamous criminal from the perspective of his longtime girlfriend, while Lupita Nyong'o takes a surprising turn in the "midnight" movie "Little Monsters," from Abe Forsythe, in which she plays a kindergarten teacher who has to protect her students from zombies.

Keira Knightley stars as intelligence whistleblower Katharine Gun in Gavin Hood's "Official Secrets" and Mindy Kaling writes and stars in a film about a late-night talk show host (played by Emma Thompson) who hires her first female staff writer ("Late Night"). □

Associated Press

Oprah offers rousing tribute to Mandela in S. Africa visit

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Oprah Winfrey on Thursday delivered a rousing tribute to Nelson Mandela, a century after he was born, and urged the youth of South Africa and beyond to overcome failure and trauma on the road to accomplishing their goals.

"Your day will come. I applaud your resilience," Winfrey told a cheering crowd in Soweto. "I say there's no such thing as failure. Failure is just a mistake trying to move you in a better direction."

The philanthropist and former talk show host, who opened an academy for girls in South Africa a decade ago, acknowledged the high unemployment, poverty and other social challenges persisting in the



Oprah Winfrey gestures as she is introduced to the audience for her tribute speech to Nelson Mandela and promoting gender equality at an event in Soweto, South Africa, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

Associated Press

country that held its first all-race elections in 1994 after the end of white minority

rule.

But Winfrey, who said she was visiting South Africa for the 36th time, told young people not to give up. "Because it is your fresh perspectives that are going to bring about unprecedented innovation for this country. We need you."

The Nelson Mandela Foundation co-hosted the event, one of a series of activities honoring Mandela this year. The anti-apartheid leader and South Africa's first black president died in 2013 at age 95.

Winfrey said she stayed with Mandela and his wife Graca Machel for 10 days during one of her visits. Mandela spoke about his many years in prison during apartheid as well as his concern about the corrosive effect of poverty, she said. □

Mahershala Ali on 'Green Book': 'It's a legitimate offering'

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mahershala Ali's life changed in more ways than one the week of the 2017 Oscars. Four days before he won best supporting actor for his performance in "Moonlight," his wife, Amatus-Sami Karim, gave birth to their first child.

"When I won, all I could think about was: I just want to get home," Ali says, grinning.

It wasn't just Ali's soulful, tender performance as a drug dealer in Barry Jenkins' "Moonlight" that illuminated Ali to audiences. It was his incredible poise through awards season, where he became the first Muslim actor to win an Oscar. At the Screen Actors Guild Awards, during the outcry over Donald Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries, he eloquently spoke about "Moonlight" and acceptance: "We see what happens when you persecute people. They fold into themselves."

It was clear enough: Here



In this Nov. 19, 2018 photo, actor Mahershala Ali poses for a portrait in New York to promote his film, "Green Book."

was no flash-in-the-pan. Here was a journeyman actor of uncommon grace and dignity. And Ali's phone started ringing.

"It changed the trajectory of my career," Ali, 44, said in a recent interview over tea in midtown Manhattan. "It gives you permission in some way to not dream

bigger but dream deeper. Like: What type of work do you really want to do?"

Ali still harbors larger aspirations, like playing boxer Jack Johnson, but this fall has provided some of the answer. Ali stars in Peter Farrelly's road-trip drama "Green Book" and headlines the upcoming third season of HBO's "True Detective." And "Green Book," now in theaters, has again catapulted Ali to the top of the supporting-actor contenders. Many believe he's in line for another Oscar.

But this time, the road has been rockier. "Green Book," brisk and modest, has won raves from some critics and many audiences as a feel-good story about the real-life friendship that developed when the refined concert pianist Don Shirley (Ali) hired a racist Bronx bouncer, Tony Lip (Viggo Mortensen), to drive him on a 1962 tour of the Deep South. But the film has been criticized by some as an outdated, sentimentalized kind of movie, one that trades on racial tropes, perpetuates the "white savior" cliché and isn't deserving of its namesake (a travel-survival guide for African-Americans in the Jim Crow South).

Ali grants "Green Book" is a portrait of race in America unlike one by Jenkins or

Amma Asante or Ava DuVernay. But he believes the film's uplifting approach has value.

"It's approached in a way that's perhaps more palatable than some of those other projects. But I think it's a legitimate offering. Don Shirley is really complex considering it's 1962. He's the one in power in that car. He doesn't have to go on that trip. I think embodied in him is somebody that we haven't seen. That alone makes the story worthy of being told," says Ali. "Anytime, whether it's white writers or black writers, I can play a character with dimensionality, that's attractive to me."

"Green Book" was hailed as an irresistible crowd-pleaser and a major Oscar contender after its September premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, where it won the festival's audience award. (And every film in the last decade to win that prize has ended up a best picture nominee.) But the \$23 million-film has struggled to take off at the box office, earning \$8.3 million in two weeks. Universal Pictures still has high hopes. Audiences gave it an A-plus CinemaScore and the National Board of Review on Tuesday named it the year's best film.

Still, along the way, Ali

has heard the complaints about "Green Book." He disagrees.

"A couple of times I've seen 'white savior' comments and I don't think that's true. Or the 'reverse "Driving Miss Daisy"' thing, I don't agree with," he says. "If you were to call this film a 'reverse "Driving Miss Daisy,"' then you would have to reverse the history of slavery and colonialism. It would have to be all black presidents and all white slaves."

Yet the debates over "Green Book" have put Ali in a plainly awkward position, particularly when Mortensen used the n-word at a Q&A for the film while discussing the slur's prevalence in 1962. Mortensen quickly apologized, saying he had no right, in any context to use the word. Ali issued a statement, too, in support of Mortensen while firmly noting the word's wrongness. "It was challenging, especially being the lone black presence in the film and feeling responsible to address that publicly," says Ali. "There's a difference between racist and lacking awareness. And I think he lacked awareness in that moment of the inappropriateness of the word, even within an intellectual context like that. There's a mini explosion that happens whenever a non-black person says that in a public setting."

"But I love him," Ali adds. "And we've talked about it more. He's a great dude and he's going to continue to be a great dude."

Ali first got to know Mortensen on the awards circuit two years ago, when Mortensen was nominated for "Captain Fantastic." The film rests on their relationship; that it works so well is a testament to their chemistry together. When cast, Mortensen's first question to Farrelly was who was going to play Shirley. "When Pete said Mahershala Ali, I said, 'Well you can't do better than that,'" Mortensen said by phone. "He's very sensitive and extremely intelligent and thoughtful and has a real awareness of himself in any space."

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Star Trek's interracial kiss 50 years ago heralded change

By JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was the kiss heard around the galaxy.

Fifty years ago — and only one year after the U.S. Supreme Court declared interracial marriage was legal — two of science fiction's most enduring characters, Captain James T. Kirk and Lieutenant Nyota Uhura, kissed each other on "Star Trek."

It wasn't romantic. Sadistic, humanlike aliens forced the dashing white captain to lock lips with the beautiful black communications officer. But the kiss between actors William Shatner and Nichelle Nichols in "Plato's Stepchildren" would help change attitudes in America about what was allowed to be shown on TV and made an early statement about the coming acceptance of interracial relationships in a United States still struggling with racism and civil rights. The kiss between Uhura and Kirk "suggested that there was a future where these issues were not such a big deal," said Eric Deggans, national television critic for National Public Radio. "The characters themselves were not freaking out because a black woman was kissing a white man ... In this utopian-like future, we solved this issue. We're beyond it. That was a wonderful message to send."

"Plato's Stepchildren," which first aired on Nov. 22, 1968, came before Star Trek morphed into a cultural phenomenon. The show's producers, meanwhile, were concerned about one of the main episode elements: Humanlike aliens dressed as ancient Greeks that torture the crew with their telekinetic powers and force the two USS Enterprise crew members to kiss.

Worried about reaction



This combination photo shows actor William Shatner on the set of ABC's "Boston Legal" in Manhattan Beach, Calif., on Sept. 13, 2004, left, and actress Nichelle Nichols attending an all-star tribute concert for jazz icon Herbie Hancock in Los Angeles on Oct. 28, 2007.

Associated Press

from Southern television stations, showrunners filmed the kiss between Shatner and Nichols — their lips are mostly obscured by the back of Nichols' head — and wanted to film a second where it happened off-screen. But Nichols said in her book, "Beyond Uhura: Star Trek and Other Memories," that she and Shatner deliberately flubbed lines to force the original take to be used.

Despite concerns from executives, "Plato's Stepchildren" aired without blowback. In fact, it got the most "fan mail that Paramount had ever gotten on Star Trek for one episode," Nichols said in a 2010 interview with the Archive of American Television.

Officials at Paramount, the show's producer, "were just simply amazed and people have talked about it ever since," said Nichols.

While inside the show things were buzzing, the episode passed by the general

public and the TV industry at that time almost without comment, said Robert Thompson, a Syracuse University professor of television and popular culture.

"It neither got the backlash one might have expected nor did it open the doors for lots more shows to do this," Thompson said. "The shot heard around the world started the American Revolution. The kiss heard around the world eventually did ... but not immediately."

This was a world where interracial marriage had just become legal nationwide. In 1967, the year before "Plato's Stepchildren" aired, the Supreme Court struck down nationwide laws that made marriage illegal between blacks and whites, between whites and Native Americans, Filipinos, Asians and, in some states, "all non-whites."

Only 3 percent of newlyweds were intermarried that year. In 2015, 17 percent of newlyweds — or at least 1 in 6 of newly-married people — were intermarried, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. Most television — outside

of the news — was escapist fare and not willing to deal with the raucous atmosphere in the 1960s, Thompson said.

"It was so hard for television in the 60s to talk about the 1960s," he said. "That kiss and that episode of Star Trek is an example of how every now and again television in that period tried to kick the door open to those kinds of representations."

Gene Roddenberry, Star Trek's creator, and his team had more leeway because he was writing about the future and not current life, experts said.

"Setting Star Trek three hundred years in the future allowed (Roddenberry) to focus on the social issues of the 1960s without being direct or obvious," Shatner said in his book "Leonard: My Fifty-Year Friendship with a Remarkable Man."

A later episode entitled "Let That Be Your Last Battlefield" highlighted the folly of racism by showing a generations-long battle between two people from the same planet who thought each other to be subhuman — one was black-skinned on the left side and white on the right, while the other was the opposite.

Throughout the ensuing decades, interracial relationships with black and white actors became more prevalent on television, spanning multiple genres. From comedies like "The Jeffersons" and "Happy Endings," to dramas such as "Parenthood," "Six Feet Under" and "Dynasty," and back to sci-fi with the short-lived "Firefly."

The trend is still not without its detractors. In 2013, a Cheerios commercial featuring an interracial couple and their daughter drew thousands of racist comments online.

Historians have noted that interracial kisses between blacks and whites happened on British television during live plays as early as 1959, and on subsequent soap operas like "Emergency Ward 10."

In the U.S., interethnic kisses happened on "I Love Lucy" between the Cuban Desi Arnaz and the white Lucille Ball in the 1950s and even on Star Trek in 1967 with Mexican actor Ricardo Montalban kissing Madlyn Rhue in the "Space Seed" episode.

Other shows like "Adventures in Paradise" and "I Spy" featured kisses between white male actors and Asian actresses, and Sammy Davis Jr. kissed Nancy Sinatra on the cheek on a December 1967 episode of her televised special "Movin' with Nancy."

Whether another kiss came first doesn't really matter.

"For whatever reason, that one between Captain Kirk and Lieutenant Uhura seems to be the one that is marked as the milestone," Thompson said.

It stands out because it had a profound effect on viewers, Nichols said in 2010.

"The first thing people want to talk about is the first interracial kiss and what it did for them. And they thought of the world differently, they thought of people differently," she said. □



McConnell's year-end wish: Getting Congress to legalize hemp

By **BRUCE SCHREINER**

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) —

Pressed for time and pushed to move quickly on a border wall and criminal justice reform, the Senate's top leader has his own priority in Congress' lame-duck session: passing a farm bill that includes a full pardon for hemp, the non-intoxicating cousin of marijuana that's making a comeback in his home state.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has guaranteed that his proposal to make hemp a legal agricultural commodity, removing it from the federal list of controlled substances, will be part of the final farm bill, a crucial measure for rural America and Kentucky, where the Republican senator faces re-election in 2020. He places it on a par with federal spending bills as action Congress must take before the end of the year.

Keeping that promise would cap a decadeslong journey to overcome the stigma associated with the crop, which McConnell himself did not initially embrace wholeheartedly. But in recent years, the quintessential establishment Republican has been all in for the hemp revolution.

McConnell put himself on the conference committee assigned to negotiate a compromise farm bill. Work requirements for food stamps, known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, have been the biggest stumbling block holding up an agreement. Kentucky has emerged as a leader in developing a hemp industry and as a place where legalizing the crop went from a fringe issue to a mainstream cause. Fellow Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul and Republican U.S. Reps. Thomas Massie and James Comer are strong supporters, too. But it's McConnell's backing that has put the long-banned crop on the verge of winning a full pardon. "We are very fortunate to have Sen. McConnell as our top advocate in Con-



In a Thursday, July 5, 2018 file photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, left, inspects a piece of hemp taken from a bale of hemp at a processing plant in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

gress," said Eric Steenstra, president of the hemp advocacy group Vote Hemp. Comer, a leading hemp proponent since his days as Kentucky's agriculture commissioner, likes the provision's chances this year. "It's going to happen," he said.

Hemp is deeply rooted in Kentucky's past dating back to pioneer days. But

growing hemp without a federal permit was banned decades ago because of its classification as a controlled substance related to marijuana. Hemp and marijuana are the same species, but hemp has a negligible amount of THC, the psychoactive compound that gives marijuana users a high.

The crop was historically

used for rope but has many other uses, including clothing and mulch from the fiber; hemp milk and cooking oil from the seeds; and soap and lotions. Other uses include building materials, animal bedding and biofuels. Hemp-derived cannabidiol, or CBD oil, as a health product has become an increasingly large market.



In this June 6, 2018 file photo, a marijuana plant grows at El Piso Cannabis Club in Montevideo, Uruguay, the first nation to legalize the pot market covering the entire chain from plants to purchase.

Associated Press

Hemp's comeback started with the 2014 federal farm bill. McConnell helped push for a provision allowing states to pursue hemp research and development. That allowed the crop to be grown on an experimental basis.

"They (hemp proponents) did a nice job of figuring out how to explain the marketplace for this to make this seem like something other than a pie-in-the-sky, fringe idea," said Scott Jennings, a Kentucky-based Republican consultant with close ties to McConnell. "And McConnell listened and found his way to supporting them because they made a good case."

In helping push hemp into the mainstream, McConnell reached out to allay law enforcement concerns about the crop, Jennings said. The senator talks publicly about the differences between hemp and marijuana.

It's not the first time McConnell has been a key player in potentially transforming Kentucky agriculture. More than a decade ago, the Republican lawmaker helped win the multibillion-dollar tobacco buyout, which compensated U.S. tobacco growers and others for losing production quotas when the government's price-support program ended.

Hemp production has spread since its modest beginning in 2014, when 33 acres (13 hectares) were planted in Kentucky. Kentucky farmers planted 6,700 acres (2,710 hectares) of hemp in 2018—more than twice last year's production, according to the state's agriculture department. More than 70 Kentucky processors are turning the versatile plant into products.

"Industrial hemp is no longer a novelty in Kentucky but is emerging as a commodity with a viable economic success," said current Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles. □